

## INFORMED CONSENT RELEASE

Based on the results of numerous professional evaluations and extensive field testing, The Empathy Belly™ Pregnancy Simulator (U.S. Patent 4,531,919) has been found to be a highly effective, beneficial and safe teaching aid when handled or worn by individuals who are in normal, good health, and who behave in a correct and careful manner while handling or wearing this teaching aid. Since you (or your child) are being offered the educational opportunity to use The Empathy Belly™, you are hereby provided with full information regarding this product's intended and potential effects, benefits, avoidable risk factors, and reasonable precautions to be maintained while handling or wearing this product. As a prerequisite to handling or wearing The Empathy Belly™, carefully read and complete this form.

Intended for use only as a serious teaching aid, The Empathy Belly™ is a multi-component, weighted "garment" that will enable male and female wearers to temporarily "experience", through accurate simulation, more than 20 of the typical symptoms and effects of pregnancy. Through this hands-on, experiential type of learning, wearers find out what it feels like to be pregnant, and gain a realistic understanding of the changes and demands imposed by the pregnant condition. Following are some of the symptoms and effects that can be felt by wearing The Empathy Belly™ for 10 minutes or longer: body weight gain of 35 pounds; pregnant profile of enlarged breasts and protruding abdominal belly; continuous pressure on the abdomen and internal organs; postural changes of the back with an increase in "pelvic tilt"; shift in one's center of gravity; low backache; mild "fetal" kicking and stroking movements; shallow breathing capacity and shortness of breath; increase in body temperature, pulse and blood pressure; a flushing sensation and increased perspiration; awkwardness in all body movements; pressure on the bladder, with increased sense of urgency and frequency of urination; increased fatigue, slowed pace and restricted activity. The Empathy Belly™ simulates these effects through the use of a "rib belt" and the strategic positioning of various weighted components; this is a strictly external garment, and does NOT have ANY mechanical, electrical or electronic components. Handling or wearing of The Empathy Belly™ will be done on a strictly voluntary basis, and will be done only while under the careful supervision of a trained and authorized instructor.

Individuals who weigh less than 100 pounds, or more than 300 pounds, should **NOT** use this device. Individuals with certain medical conditions or preexisting injuries might be put at risk by handling or wearing The Empathy Belly™. The following checklist is intended to help identify such individuals who might be put at risk, and who should therefore NOT use this device. If you (or your child) desire to handle or wear The Empathy Belly™, indicate here if you (or your child) currently have any of the following medical conditions or health impairments: (Check either YES or NO)

	YES	NO
1. Confirmed pregnancy, or the possibility of pregnancy .....	___	___
2. Chronic back pain, or disorders of your back, spine, neck or pelvis (including, but not limited to, scoliosis, sciatica, slipped or ruptured discs, etc.) .....	___	___
3. Any fractured or broken bones, or joint dislocations. ....	___	___
4. Any serious strains (muscle-tendon damage) or serious sprains (ligament damage) .....	___	___
5. Damage or serious weakness in your ribs, knees or ankles .....	___	___
6. High blood pressure, dizziness, fainting or vertigo .....	___	___
7. Asthma or any other respiratory disease or breathing difficulty .....	___	___
8. History of heart problems or disease (including, but not limited to, heart attack, stroke, angina, etc.) .....	___	___
9. Epilepsy or a history of convulsions .....	___	___
10. Bladder disorders, weakness or infection. ....	___	___
11. Any serious abdominal skin bruises, wounds, or recent scars .....	___	___
12. Any serious weakness or disorders of your abdomen's internal organs (including, but not limited to, hernia, enlargement of liver or spleen, infections, etc.) .....	___	___
13. Any other medical condition for which your physician has advised you to avoid strenuous activity .....	___	___

**WARNING:** Handling or wearing of this product in the presence of any of the above conditions may cause them to get much worse or may cause injury. If you have answered YES to ANY of the above questions, or if you (or your child) have any other abnormal health condition that you believe might put you (or your child) at risk, then YOU (OR YOUR CHILD) ABSOLUTELY SHOULD NOT HANDLE OR WEAR The Empathy Belly™ Pregnancy Simulator.

The weight gain and respiratory changes common in pregnancy (and in the simulation of pregnancy) naturally impose significant physical demands on the human body. While experiencing any strenuous activity, especially those involving the handling or wearing of weighted components, there is always the possibility of a strain-sprain injury, particularly if an individual does not behave cautiously. MISUSE of The Empathy Belly™ could cause serious, permanent damage. Therefore, to minimize any risk of injury while wearing The Empathy Belly™, the wearer should understand and maintain the following precautions:

1. DO NOT act recklessly or frivolously.
2. DO NOT simultaneously twist side to side while bending over.
3. DO NOT make any abrupt, jerky or swift movements in any direction.
4. DO NOT bend over without bending knees (use squatting position).
5. DO NOT bounce, jump or run.
6. DO NOT wear high-heeled or slippery shoes.
7. DO NOT go on stairs, steep inclines or slippery surfaces.
8. HANDLE CAREFULLY all weighted components of this device at all times
9. IMMEDIATELY DISCONTINUE WEARING THIS DEVICE if you feel any sharp pain, dizziness or other adverse effect; consult a physician if necessary.

I have studied and understand all of the teacher training materials provided by the manufacturer concerning the correct, effective and safe usage of the teaching aid, The Empathy Belly™ Pregnancy Simulator. I have been specifically authorized as a qualified instructor to handle and demonstrate this device. I agree to follow all instructions and precautions of the manufacturer. I agree to carefully supervise the below named individual at all times while he/she is wearing The Empathy Belly™.

Supervising Instructor's Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the above description of The Empathy Belly™ Pregnancy Simulator, its intended and potential effects, benefits, avoidable risk factors, and the reasonable precautions to be maintained while wearing this teaching aid. I voluntarily agree (or permit my child) to wear The Empathy Belly™ for purposes of my (or my child's) own benefit. I (or my child) agree(s) to follow all instructions and precautions stated above. I assume all risk and liability for any injury or damage to me (or my child) that might arise out of my (or my child's) handling or wearing of The Empathy Belly™. I hereby release and forever discharge the manufacturer of The Empathy Belly™, the purchaser and the instructor, from all claims of injuries or suits of any kind arising from my (or my child's) use of The Empathy Belly™.

Parent's Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(or if a Minor, Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian)