

INSTITUTE FOR COMPASSIONATE CARE (ICC) / RESET LIFE COACHING (RLC)

Equine-Assisted Coaching: Assumption of Risk, Release, and Waiver of Liability

WARNING

Under the Illinois Equine Activity Liability Act (745 ILCS 47/1 et seq.), each participant who engages in an equine activity expressly assumes the risks of engaging in and legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person or property resulting from the risk of equine activities.

1. Participant

Participant Name:

Date of Birth:

If Participant is a minor, this form must also be signed by a parent or legal guardian in Section 8.

2. Nature of the Activity

Institute for Compassionate Care (ICC) and Reset Life Coaching (RLC) ("we," "us," "ICC/RLC") offer equine-assisted coaching sessions conducted on an active, working ranch. Sessions may involve being near, handling, leading, grooming, or otherwise interacting with horses, in addition to ordinary movement around ranch grounds, barns, corrals, and pastures. Equine-assisted coaching is a coaching modality, not equine therapy, veterinary care, medical treatment, or psychotherapy, and it is not a substitute for any of those services.

3. Acknowledgment of Risks

I understand and acknowledge that participating in equine activities and being present on a working ranch involves inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken. These risks include, but are not limited to:

- Horses are large, powerful animals with unpredictable behavior. A horse may kick, bite, rear, buck, bolt, spook, step on, crush, or otherwise cause injury, even a horse generally considered calm or well-trained.
- The inability of any person, including experienced handlers, to predict how a horse will react to sounds, sudden movements, unfamiliar objects, other animals, or people.
- Loss of balance or control while mounted, leading, or working near a horse, and the risk of falling, being thrown, dragged, or pinned.
- Hazards of surface and subsurface conditions on a working ranch, including uneven ground, holes, rocks, mud, slopes, wet or icy surfaces, loose gravel, fencing, equipment, and other natural or man-made hazards typical of an outdoor, non-arena environment.
- Exposure to the outdoors and weather, including heat, cold, sun, insects, and wildlife.
- My own action or inaction, including failing to follow instructions, failing to act within the limits of my ability, or failing to maintain appropriate control or awareness around the horse or the terrain.

I understand that this ranch environment is not a level, enclosed arena. Sessions require the ability to walk on natural, uneven outdoor surfaces and to navigate ranch terrain safely, including changes in elevation, footing, and obstacles.

4. Physical Readiness & Referral to Alternative Settings

I confirm that I have disclosed to ICC/RLC any physical limitation, mobility issue, balance concern, medical condition, or other factor that could affect my ability to safely navigate uneven outdoor terrain or be near horses, as reflected in my Intake Form.

I understand that if I require a more controlled, level, arena-based setting due to mobility, medical, or other needs, ICC/RLC can provide a referral to nearby equine facilities and programs equipped to accommodate those conditions, in lieu of, or in addition to, ranch-based sessions.

5. Participant's Responsibility

Consistent with the Illinois Equine Activity Liability Act, I understand that I have sole responsibility for knowing the range of my own ability to manage, care for, and control myself around a horse or during a ranch-based session. I agree to act within the limits of my own ability, to heed all posted warnings and instructions, to participate only in the areas designated by ICC/RLC, and to refrain from any conduct that could cause or contribute to injury to myself or others.

6. Assumption of Risk, Release, and Indemnification

In consideration of being permitted to participate in equine-assisted coaching and ranch-based sessions with ICC/RLC, I, on behalf of myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, agree as follows:

- I voluntarily assume all risks of injury, illness, death, or property damage arising from my participation in equine-assisted coaching and my presence on the ranch, whether arising from the negligence of ICC/RLC, its coaches, staff, volunteers, or property owners, or otherwise, except as limited by the Illinois Equine Activity Liability Act.
- I release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue ICC/RLC, its owners, coaches, employees, contractors, volunteers, and the owners of the ranch premises, from any and all liability, claims, demands, or causes of action arising out of my participation, except for injury caused by willful or wanton disregard for my safety, intentional injury, or as otherwise provided by law.
- I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the released parties from any loss, liability, damage, or cost they may incur due to my participation, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Nothing in this waiver is intended to limit liability that cannot lawfully be waived, including liability for willful or wanton disregard for participant safety as set forth in the Illinois Equine Activity Liability Act.

7. Emergency Medical Care

I authorize ICC/RLC staff to arrange for emergency medical treatment on my behalf if I am unable to make decisions for myself, and I agree to be financially responsible for any costs of such treatment.

Preferred Hospital (if any):

Known Allergies / Medical Notes:

8. Signatures

I have read this entire document. I understand it affects my legal rights, and I sign it freely and voluntarily. I am at least 18 years of age, or my parent/legal guardian has signed below on my behalf.

Participant Signature:

Date:

Printed Name:

If Participant is a minor (under 18):

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

Printed Name:

Relationship to Minor:

This release remains valid until expressly revoked in writing by the Participant, or, if a minor, by the parent or guardian, consistent with 745 ILCS 47/15.