



# NDI Liability Release Form

## *Assumption of Risks & Volunteer Disclosure of Risks and Dangers*

Natural Doctors International (hereafter known as NDI) provides the opportunity for various types of volunteers to work in our office and/or clinics on the Island of Ometepe, Nicaragua, and to engage in such activities, which are in accordance with our stated purpose. In order to carry out this purpose, the said volunteer will live and travel while in Nicaragua as the local people do, which may expose him/her to concomitant risks. The list below does not cover every conceivable risk, but is intended to be representative:

**General Risks and Dangers:** There are general risks associated with all travel. In addition there may be additional risks and dangers at NDI sites.

**Transportation:** Standards of transportation safety, including but not limited to the following, are lower in Central America than in developed countries, and are outside the control of NDI: the condition, maintenance and safety requirements of surface, air, and water vehicles; the condition, maintenance and policing of roads, airways, and waterways; training and licensing of vehicle operators; requirements for personal safety such as seat belts; traveling in the back of an open truck; provision for rescue operations in case of accident; and general safety standards with respect to any aspect of public or private transportation may be inadequate or lacking.

**Health and Sanitation:** Standards of health and sanitation are lower than in North America. As a result, a volunteer may be exposed to contaminated food and water and to other medical problems and diseases endemic to the area, including but not limited to hepatitis A, various gastroenteritis bouts, dengue, malaria, chagas, tuberculosis, parasites including giardia lamblia, entoameoba histolitica, entoameoba coli, various upper respiratory infections including but not limited to pneumonia or asthma, tuberculosis; environmental onslaughts including volcanic dust, dust in general, open stove cooking over wood, pesticide spraying (for example diesel and permethrin) and burning trash.

**Medical Care:** At various NDI sites appropriate medical care under some conditions are outside the control of NDI and will be limited or unavailable for the following reasons: limited medical supplies and facilities to treat a condition that otherwise might be manageable, inadequate training of medical personal, limited or non-existent diagnostic tools and laboratories, lack of an ambulance or other medical transportation, and limited or non-existent communication systems such as radio or telephone. Medical doctors may not have basic CPR skills. For example, in Nicaragua the Moyogalpa Center of Health, the only 24-hour facility for healthcare on the island, **does not have adequate facilities to treat emergencies.** Emergencies are taken off the island to Rivas, a one-hour or more boat ride. There are no x-ray machines on the island, oxygen, defibrillators or emergency room service for major surgery on the island. The only MRI and CAT scans, as well as numerous other emergency services may only be located in Managua, a four-hour trip by boat and car.

**Bites:** A volunteer may be exposed to bites from poisonous snakes, spiders, scorpions, dogs, etc. Mosquito bites may cause malaria or dengue fever.

**Other Conditions:** Various other types of risks and dangers occur in Nicaragua because of conditions arising from the fact that it is an developing country, including but not limited to the following: inadequate supply of life preservers on boats, lack of lifeguards at public swimming places where tides may change and strong currents exist, lack of properly trained search and rescue teams, fewer police and other enforcement officials, criminal or terrorist activity, political unrest, personal or family conflict, uncontrollable disease epidemics, natural disasters including but not limited to volcanic eruptions due to an active volcano on Ometepe, earthquakes and hurricanes. Unknown and/or unanticipated risks may be encountered during the trip.

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I, the undersigned volunteer, understand that the risks described above in the *NDI VOLUNTEER LIABILITY RELEASE FORM* exist, and that as a result there is the possibility of serious illness, disability, accident, or even death. I have read completely the above information and I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the risks and dangers associated with such a trip. I understand these risks are inherent in the trip, and as a condition of participation in the trip I hereby assume the risks and dangers associated with such a trip voluntarily and without any coercion of any kind. I understand that if I choose to participate in risky behavior such as climbing volcanos, renting motorcycles, etc. NDI cannot be held responsible and I understand these choices may put myself at additional risk due to lack of medical facilities in the event I have an accident, etc.

As a volunteer I also understand that while NDI and/or its representatives will make all reasonable efforts to assist me in locating and obtaining first aid and basic medical care should the need arise, however NDI will not assume responsibility for or pay for any medical expenses which I may incur while I am acting as a volunteer. I also understand that I am responsible for carrying my own basic Catastrophic Medical Insurance policy or other Travel Medical Insurance. My signature below indicates that I will carry and maintain any additional necessary medical insurance while I am acting as a volunteer, and that I will be responsible for my own medical expenses or expenses that result from my injury or death. Furthermore, I agree to release and hold harmless, to the fullest extent allowed by law, Natural Doctors International (NDI), its members, Board of Directors, employees and representatives, from all claims and liabilities resulting from the trip or extended stay with projects related to NDI.

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**Printed Name**

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**Signature of Volunteer**

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**Date**