**RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS**

**Qualifications of Independent Consultants**

*An Independent Consultant should:*

1. Be an expert in the field in which they are chosen for consultation (scientific, ethical, psychological, cultural, or social).
2. Have a good scholarly (for those who are in scientific fields), social, ethical, and moral standing.

**Duties and Responsibilities of Independent Consultants**

*An Independent Consultant should:*

1. Review protocols assigned to them and submit them within the allowable timeframe.
2. Review protocols with a focus on risks of research/procedures, risk mitigation, enhancing benefits, and any updates about the research topic.
3. Attend Committee meetings when invited for clarifications and further consultation, particularly for protocols deliberated for the full board. Their presence is significant although they have no voting power since they are considered as RERC members.
4. Declare any Conflict of Interest (COI) in the review of protocols.
5. Maintain confidentiality of the documents and deliberations of the Committee meetings.
6. Be oriented and comply with the PSURERC Standard Operating Procedures and the National Ethical Guidelines for Research Involving Human Participants 2022.
7. Receive an honorarium for their services.