**Consent Form**

IRB Approval # 2009G5647

You are being invited to participate in research of police cynicism and personality characteristics.  I am investigating this topic in order to further my understanding of police cynicism.  The purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between personality aspects of police officers and how they relate to officer cynicism. Cynicism can be defined as an attitude of contempt, frustration and disbelief in the goodness of human actions. Cynicism can be a major factor in police work, which is why it is important to have a better understanding of it. By participating in this study, you will be helping gather important information about cynicism and its effects. This survey will take approximately 20 minutes to completed, conducted by Elizabeth Kanode ([ek1089@txstate.edu](mailto:ek1089@txstate.edu)). This study will be under the supervision of Dr. Randall E. Osborne ([ro10@txstate.edu](mailto:ro10@txstate.edu) or 512-245-8236) of the Psychology Department and Dr. Donna Vandiver ([dv14@txstate.edu](mailto:dv14@txstate.edu) or 512-245-7907) of the Criminal Justice Department.

You have been recruited to participate in this study because of your duties as a police officer.  I am a student at Texas State University and your police department was chosen due to convenience.

Your participation is entirely voluntary.  You may refuse to participate.  Such refusal will not have any negative consequences for you.  If you begin to participate in the research, you may at any time, for any reason, discontinue your participation without any negative consequences. You are not, in any way, required to answer any questions. If you do not feel comfortable answering any questions, please refrain from doing so. There is no compensation for this participating in this survey.

If you participate in this study, you will be asked to answer the 83 closed-ended survey questions. The questions asked are in the following topic areas: demographics, cynicism, self-monitoring, locus of control, and belief in a just world. Many of these are standardized scales used to assess personal characteristics. All data collected will be kept in a locked file cabinet in a locked research room, in the Criminal Justice Department at Texas State University in Dr. Donna Vandiver’s office 108. After all data has been entered into the computer and analyses completed all original data sheets will be destroyed within one year of study completion. Consent forms will be kept for three years from completion of the study and then destroyed.

There is a possibility that some of the questions in the survey may make you feel uncomfortable.  I will be asking you about personal things and you may feel embarrassed at times when talking about your beliefs and policing practices. Some participants may feel hesitant to give out their information in the fear of his/her supervisors connecting the provided information with you individually. Confidentiality will be insured throughout your participation and you will remain completely anonymous. At no point through the conduction of this research will your name or identifying information be presented in correlation to any of your specific answers. You will not be identified in any way in the final report or by any means to any of your co-officers or supervisors.

Below is an example of some of the questions you will be asked:

* I've found that a person rarely deserves the reputation he has.
* In different situations and with different people, I often act like very different persons.’

The primary purpose of this research is to identify factors that are correlated with cynicism in order to prevent cynicism from occurring and intervening when it does. The benefits of this research are high among police officers, police departments and society as this research strives for a better understanding of cynicism among police officers. This study was not designed to benefit you directly, however, there is some possibility that you may learn about officer cynicism through your participation.  In addition, what I learn from the study may help us to better understand what causes officer cynicism.

If you have any questions about the research or your rights in this or any other study, you can contact the Chair of the IRB, Dr. Jon Lasser at ([lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu) or 512-245-3413) or the Office of Sponsored Projects Administrator, Becky Northcut (512-245-2314).

***Please sign one copy of this form and keep the other.***

* *I would like a copy of the final report emailed to me at the following email address:*

By signing below, you are giving your consent to participate in this survey.

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Participant’s Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name

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Researcher’s Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name