Consent Form

**Children’s Hospitals Social Workers’ Perceptions of Child Maltreatment in Spanish-Dominant Families**

IRB Approval #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

You are invited to participate in a research study of hospital social workers’ perceptions about potential cultural differences in patterns of child abuse and neglect among families who come to the attention of Texas children’s hospitals. My name is Mary Tijerina and I am a faculty member in the Texas State University-San Marcos, School of Social Work. I can be contacted by email at [mt01@txstate.edu](mailto:mt01@txstate.edu) or by telephone at 512-557-0257. In this study, we want to learn about children’s hospital social worker’s observations of differences in patterns of child maltreatment between Spanish-dominant families and English-dominant families. We also wish to learn about the protocols followed by children’s hospitals in responding to suspected cases of child maltreatment. The purpose is to explore differences in service needs and barriers to services to families who are suspected of child maltreatment. You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you are a social worker employed in one of Texas’ children’s hospitals.

If you decide to participate, we will ask you to take part in a telephone survey consisting of four broad questions and lasting approximately 40 minutes. The telephone survey will be scheduled at a time convenient for you. The survey will ask general questions about your experience as a children’s hospital social worker, protocols followed by your hospital in responding to suspected cases of child abuse and neglect, your observations of differences and similarities between Spanish-dominant and English-dominant cases of suspected child abuse and neglect, and your perceptions of service needs or barriers to providing services to Spanish-dominant families. Two or three of the respondents to the telephone survey may be asked to participate in follow-up interviews regarding their perceptions of cultural differences in patterns of child abuse and neglect or service needs unique to Spanish-dominant families. Interviews will be conducted face-to-face at a time and place convenient to the subjects. Interviews will consist of more in-depth exploration of the same types of information collected in the telephone survey. Interviews will be tape-recorded for accuracy in data collection and analysis. No identifying information will be included in the survey, interviews, transcripts or reports. Any information obtained in connection with this study that could be identified with you will be kept confidential . Identifying information will be kept in an electronic file separate from the survey and interview responses that your provide. The file with identifying information will be accessible only to the researcher. Data and audiotapes will be maintained by the researcher in a locked file for a period of five years after which they will be destroyed.

You will not be asked to provide any patient records or identifying information. It is not expected that your participation in the survey will cause you risk or discomfort. Your responses will help to begin identifying areas for further study, potential training needs for social workers and service needs and barriers to families involved in child abuse and neglect. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your future relations with Texas State University-San Marcos. If you decide to participate, you may decline to answer any questions for any reason and you are free to discontinue participation at any time.

You are making a decision whether or not to participate. Your responses to the survey questions indicate that you have read the information provided above and have decided to participate. You may withdraw at any time after beginning the survey should you decide to discontinue participation in this study. A summary of the findings from this exploratory study will be provided to participants upon completion of the study, if requested. To request a copy of the results, contact Dr. Mary Tijerina at [mt01@txstate..edu](mailto:mt01@txstate..edu)

If you have any questions, please ask us. If you have any additional questions later, you may contact Mary Tijerina at 512-557-0257. Questions about the research and your rights as a research participant should be directed to the Chair of the Texas State Institutional Review Board (IRB) chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413 – [lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu)), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102).

Please print a copy of this consent form for your records.

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Signature of Participant Date

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Signature of Investigator Date