



# **ETHICS IN SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH**

a look into the ethos of completing  
social science research



Jacob Campbell, LICSW  
Heritage University  
SOWK 459 Fall 2019  
Social Science Research Methods

# ETHICS IN SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH



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**With a partner, discuss:**

- How do you make ethical decisions?
- What is the basis for your ethics?

**WHAT ARE  
YOUR ETHICS**





# AGENDA

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- Preparing for peer review process
- Unethical examples
- Tasks and concepts related to ethical social science research methods
- Examples of processes and forms related to ethics

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# PEER REVIEWS





# 5 PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS YOU COULDN'T DO TODAY

Green (2016) The SciShow



# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

**In groups of three or four, discuss the following topics:**

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- Are there other unethical experiments you have heard about, and what did they involve?
- What are some of your reactions to these studies (potential go through all five of them)?
- While the studies discussed were unethical, what is the impact on social sciences now that they've been done?



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# TYPES OF IRBs

Institutional Review Board

## Exempt Review

lowest level of IRB review, for studies with minimal risk or human subject involvement

## Expedited Review

middle level of IRB review, for studies with minimal risk but greater human subject involvement

## Full Board Review

highest level of IRB, for studies with greater than minimal risk to participants

(DeCarlo, 2018)

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# POPULATIONS IN RESEARCH

groups of people who  
receive additional  
protection during IRB  
review

Protect & Serve

Vulnerable  
Populations



(DeCarlo, 2018)

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## THE CRISIS RESIDENTIAL CENTER'S DIRECTIONS PROGRAM EVALUATION: FOR THE 2006-2008 FINANCIAL GRANT YEARS STUDY

Going through the institutional review board process can be a lot of work  
*(especially for a full review)*

8  
Submissions

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# THE CRISIS RESIDENTIAL CENTER'S DIRECTIONS PROGRAM EVALUATION: FOR THE 2006-2008 FINANCIAL GRANT YEARS STUDY

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- 10/14/08 - Letter of agency agreement
- 12/03/08 - Initial presentation for IRB
- 01/23/09 - Final approval



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## Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects Research

### Application for IRB Review

Return Original + 2 copies for Expedited & 14 copies for Full Reviews to Grants-210 SHW	
Principal Investigator / Department Jacob Campbell, Shireen Wheeler, Jennifer Boisen Social Work Department	Responsible Project Investigator/ (faculty or staff supervisor required if PI is a student) Name: Katie Clemons-Handy
Mailing address/phone, email or fax where you can be reached <b>(note: only provide mailing address on original not on copies)</b> Jacob Campbell – 1130 W. Nora Ave Apt. 2 Spokane WA 99205 (509) 392-1056	Dept address 121 Senior Hall Cheney, WA 99004
	Phone and email (509) 999-2186 khandy@whitworth.edu
Status: Undergraduate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graduate Student <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faculty Administrator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff For students only: Is this research being done to meet a course, thesis or other academic requirement? (please specify) If not, why is it being done? It is being conducted to satisfy the requirements for our Masters degree	
Request for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expedited review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full IRB review	
Title of Project: The Crisis Residential Center's Directions Program Evaluation for the 2006-2008 Financial Grant Years	
Project anticipated starting date January 5, 2009 Anticipated termination date: determine later	
Funding: <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Funded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal Funding <input type="checkbox"/> External Funding Funding status: <input type="checkbox"/> proposal in preparation <input type="checkbox"/> pending agency decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funded Funding Agency (if applicable): YFA Connections Grant or Contract Number: _____	

Abstract	
The Crisis Residential Center's (CRC) Directions Program Evaluation for the 2006-2008 Financial Grant Years plans to look into the effectiveness of the aforementioned program. To do this, the researchers plan to first look into existing literature regarding youth similar to those found at the CRC. The researchers will then gather statistical information from the various clients that have been involved in the Directions Program for the 2006-2008 financial grant years. To get a broad perspective of the Directions Program they will be researching from several methods; 1) an inspection of client records, 2) a survey sent to previous clients and their legal guardians, and 3) in-depth interviews with former clients.	

The information provided above is accurate and the project will be conducted in accordance with applicable Federal, State and University regulations.

Signature, Principal Investigator Date 12/03/08

Signature, Investigator Date 12/13/08

Signature, Investigator Date 12/13/08

Recommendations and Action Date Approve/Disapprove

Responsible Principal Investigator 12/3/08 Approve

Dept IRB representative or Dept Chair 12/3/08 Approve

Institutional Review Board \_\_\_\_\_

Subject to the following conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Approval \_\_\_\_\_

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Wednesday, December 03, 2008,

Dear Eastern Washington University Institutional Review Board members:

I would like to thank you for considering our application to conduct a program evaluation of the Crisis Residential Center's (CRC) Directions Program. EWU students Jacob Campbell, Shireen Wheeler, and Jennifer Boisen will conduct this research. We will have supervision for both agencies involved. Katie Clemons-Handy will provide supervision from an EWU standpoint. For the CRC, Teresa Wright along with Brandon Livingston will provide supervision.

I will be the primary investigator in this research program. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, comments, or concerns.

Contact Information:

[jacob.r.campbell@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.r.campbell@gmail.com)  
1130 W. Nora Ave Apt. 2  
Spokane, WA 99205  
(509) 392-1056

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacob Campbell".

Jacob Campbell

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22 South Thor Street, P.O. Box 3344, Spokane, WA 99220  
Phone (509) 532-2000; Fax (509) 532-2005

October 14, 2008

## Research Permission

To Whom It May Concern:

YFA Connections Crisis Residential Center gives their permission to the graduate students from Eastern Washington University to conduct the research project we have discussed regarding post service contacts with program youth. CRC Effectiveness Project, as the students are calling their research activity, is directed at helping the CRC program better track outcomes, identify the best ways of completing follow-up contacts and helping the program design a survey tool.

YFA Connections appreciates the energy and investment these students will put into this project, knowing the program will be stronger because their efforts,

Sincerely,

Teresa Wright, M.Ed./LMHC  
Managing Director



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## I. Research Protocol

Please attach a summary (Attachment A), two pages or less in length, of the proposed research addressing each of the following points (A-E) separately. Do not submit any other document in place of this two page summary.

- I. Background or rationale for this activity
- II. Objectives of this specific research
- III. Describe how subjects will be involved, specify what they will do. Attach (Attachment B) any cover letters, information statements, questionnaires or other formal instruments to be used in the research, describe procedures and/or protocol(s) for unstructured interviews, etc.
- IV. Explain how data obtained will answer the research problem
- V. Identify alternative procedures, if any, that might be advantageous to the subject

## II. Human Subjects

### A. Number of subjects, including individuals who serve as "controls"

Approximate number (not to be exceeded and ages):

	Number	Age Range
Normal	127 Families	all
Vulnerable	127	13-19
Control		
Total	about 300	

### B. Source(s) and type(s) of subjects:

For this research project, we will be utilizing former clients of the CRC Directions program and their legal guardians. These participants are adolescents and adults.

### C. Criteria for selection/exclusion of subjects:

The sample will be all 127 former clients from October 1, 2006 until September 30, 2008 who participated in the Directions Program. Two surveys will be mailed out to former clients and their legal guardians. One survey is to be filled out by the legal guardians while the other is to be filled out by the former clients. A consent form will accompany the surveys asking both the legal guardians and the former clients for consent to participate in an individual interview. The participants of the in-depth interviews will be comprised of the former clients who have consent form. Each participant may opt out of any of the researching modalities.

### D. How subjects will be approached and by whom:

Each of the families will be sent a cover letter detailing the research being done. This will accompany the surveys and consent form. A reminder letter may be mailed out as needed. Those who return the consent form will be contacted by phone to set up an appointment for an individual interview. The researchers will make the phone calls. The individual interview will take place at the CRC or at a location of the participant's choosing. The researchers will conduct the interviews.

### E. Location where procedures are to be carried out.

The surveys will be mailed out to the participants' home. The individual interviews will take place at the CRC or at a location of the participant's choosing.

## III. Voluntary Participation

### A. Describe the method for ensuring that subjects understand that their participation is voluntary and that they do not feel coerced.

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The cover letter that accompanies the surveys will detail the research project and the voluntary nature of their participation. Those who come in for an individual interview will be entered into a drawing for a gift card. It is not necessary for them to complete the interview in order to be entered into the drawing. This will be detailed in the consent form.

- B. Will subjects receive an inducement, e.g., payment, services without charge, extra course credit? Specify details. What is the rationale for offering the inducement?**

Participants who come in for the in-depth interview will be entered into a drawing for a \$20 gift card. This is done as an incentive and to show our appreciation.

- C. If subjects are children and they are capable of assent, describe provisions for soliciting their assent as well as the provisions of soliciting permission of their parent(s) or authorized representative. If there is an assent form or standard briefing statement for children provide a copy as an attachment (Attachment C).**

Each of the participants is over 13 years old. The consent form will have a place for both the former client and the legal guardians to sign.

- D. Attach a copy of the consent form to be signed by the subject and/or any explanations of the research to be given orally to the subject (Attachment D). If no consent form is to be used, explain the procedures to be used to ensure that participation is voluntary. (See instructions for required contents of consent forms and safeguards for vulnerable populations.)**

See safeguards in section III part A. Participants will give their consent to the surveys by returning them. Those agreeing to the individual interview will show their consent by returning the consent form with their surveys. This form will be reviewed at the time of the interview.

- E. If any deception (withholding of complete information) is required for the validity of this activity, explain why this is necessary, and describe a debriefing plan and/or attach a debriefing statement (Attachment E).**

There will be no deception used in this study.

## IV. Confidentiality and Anonymity

- A. Will participation be anonymous, that is, the investigator will have no way to identify subjects by appearance, name or data? If subjects will be anonymous, describe the procedure for data collection to insure that anonymity is maintained.**

The surveys and interviews will be confidential. Names will not be included on the surveys. The client's ID number will replace any names.

- B. If data are collected which could be associated with individual subjects, describe the methods to be used to ensure the confidentiality of data obtained (Confidentiality for data is required unless subjects give express written permission that their data may be identified).**

The data will be kept in a locked file cabinet in the Administrator's office and computer files will be password protected. Participants' names will be redacted from all documentation and their Directions Program client number will replace them.

- C. Who specifically will have access to some or all of the data? What provisions are there for control over access to documents and data?**

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The members of the research team listed above and the agency supervisors (from Eastern Washington University and from the CRC) will all have access to the data. All have signed confidentiality agreements.

- D. **How long will data with identifiers (both paper and electronic) be held? How will they be ultimately disposed of? If they will be retained more than five years please explain why this is necessary.**

The data that will be obtained from the participants and their files will be destroyed by April 30, 2012. At this time, the paper data will be shredded and any computer files will be permanently deleted.

## V. Risks/Benefits

- A. **Will subjects in the proposed research be placed at more than minimal risk, as defined by federal policy**

As defined by the federal policy this study poses no more than minimal risk to participants.

- B. **Nature and amount of risk (including side effects), substantial stress, discomfort, or invasion of privacy**

The only risk to participants would be some psychological discomfort. This would be due to the personal nature of some of the questions utilized during the General Appraisal of Individual Needs – Short Screener (GAIN-SS). However, it is no more than would be encountered during a psychological evaluation.

- C. **What steps are being taken to reduce the level of risk, including any follow-up planned as part of the risk mitigation procedures**

Along with the surveys, the researcher will provide the participant the number to First Call for Help. All of the researchers are mandatory reporters. If at any time the researchers learn of abuse, suicidal ideation, or threat of harm, the agency supervisor will be informed and, if needed, it will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

- D. **Plan for handling adverse effects**

Participants will be provided with the number for First Call for Help to assist them with any psychological difficulties that they may encounter as a result of the research.

- E. **Arrangement for financial responsibility for adverse effects**

There is no arrangement for financial responsibility for adverse effects

- F. **Describe the benefits to the subject and/or society of the proposed research. Why do the benefits outweigh any risks that may be involved?**

Runaway youth or youth at risk is a social problem that is all of our responsibility. The CRC Directions Program, which services such clients, will benefit from the subjects involvement in this research project. The program will be able to better tailor their program to fit the needs of their clients.

## VI. Checklist (to be completed by investigator)

Yes      No

- A. Will any group, agency, or organization other than EWU be involved?  
If yes, please specify and attach letters of permission from other participating groups

X \_\_\_\_\_

- B. Will materials with potential radiation risk be used, e.g., x-rays, radioisotopes?  
If yes, please indicate:

\_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Status of annual review by Radiation Safety Officer (RSO). If approved, attach one copy of approval (Attachment F).

2. Title of application submitted to Radiation Safety Committee (RSC).

- C. Will any other hazardous materials come in contact with research subjects? If yes, indicate nature of hazard and steps taken to mitigate risk to subjects.

X

- D. Will an investigational new drug (IND) be used? If yes, name, proposed dosage, how administered, status with FDA, and IND number.

X

Enclose one copy (Attachment G) of: 1. available toxicity data; 2. reports of animal studies; 3. description of human studies done in other countries; 4. a concise review of the literature prepared by the investigator.

- E. Will other drugs be used? (including over the counter drugs) If yes, give names, dosages, how administered, and side effects.

X

- F. Will medical, academic or other records be used? If yes, please attach HIPPA or FERPA authorizations as appropriate

X

- G. Will audio-visual or tape recordings, or photographs be made?

X

- H. Should this activity be covered by adverse effects insurance? If yes, explain why.

X

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## Attachment A

### I. Background or rationale for activity

Homeless and runaway youth have the need for a stable place to live. The Crisis Residential Center's (CRC) Directions Program seeks to help facilitate this by providing youth with temporary residence, teaching them skills, and facilitating family reunification.

The project will help determine how effective the CRC's Directions Program is at facilitating lasting change and meeting the needs of its clients during the 2006-2008 financial grant years. It will also examine the clients' perspectives about the impact the CRC. Finally, part of the program evaluation will be looking at what outside resources clients have used after discharging. This will help the CRC know what can be changed to be able to better reach the diverse needs of their clients in the upcoming 2009 year.

### II. Objectives of specific research

The objective of the research is to determine the impact the Directions Program has on clients and their families. This will help to identify specific procedures and interventions that need to be changed.

### III. Describe how subjects will be involved, specify what they will do. Attach (attachment B) any cover letters, information statements, questionnaire, or other formal instruments to be used in the research. Describe procedures and/or protocols for unstructured interviews, etc.

First, information regarding participants will be gathered from their files. Specifically, this will include information regarding demographics, programmatic statistics, client history, and an initial score from the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs - Short Screener (GAIN-SS). The GAIN-SS score will be part of the pretest posttest research design of this study. Second, two surveys will be sent to former clients and their legal guardians. These will accompany a cover letter describing the project and their participation in it. It will also accompany a consent form that will ask for both the guardian's and the client's consent for the client to participate in an individual, in-depth interview. Third, those participants who sent back the consent form will be contacted for that interview. This final interview will be an informal, open session interview allowing participants to discuss their experiences and perceptions of the Directions Program. The consent form that was sent back will be reviewed before the commencement of the interview. Also, verbal permission will be requested for the interviews to be audio recorded. Those who volunteer for the in-depth interview will have their names entered in a drawing for a gift certificate.

### IV. Explain how data obtained will answer the research problem

The data gathered through the three methods will answer the research question. It does this by giving context to the clients served by the CRC through the examination of the files. It gains the legal guardians' perspective on change and the effectiveness of

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interventions through the legal guardian survey. An understanding is obtained, regarding the effectiveness of the program, from the clients though their survey and expounded in the in-depth interview. The pretest posttest method of the GAIN-SS shows change over time in the participants' lives.

## V. ID alternative procedures, if any, that might be advantageous to the subject

Some alternative procedures could be implemented that might be more advantageous to the participants. These could include either allowing legal guardians to phone in the answers to their survey or to fill it out online. It could also be giving bus passes or making travel arrangements for the participants that choose to participate in the in-depth interview at the CRC. Also, it may be advantageous for some clients if the materials were translated into another language. These procedures are not being implemented because they are not cost and time effective. Exceptions will be made in the event a participant requests special accommodation.

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## Attachment B

### List of Attachments regarding Attachment B

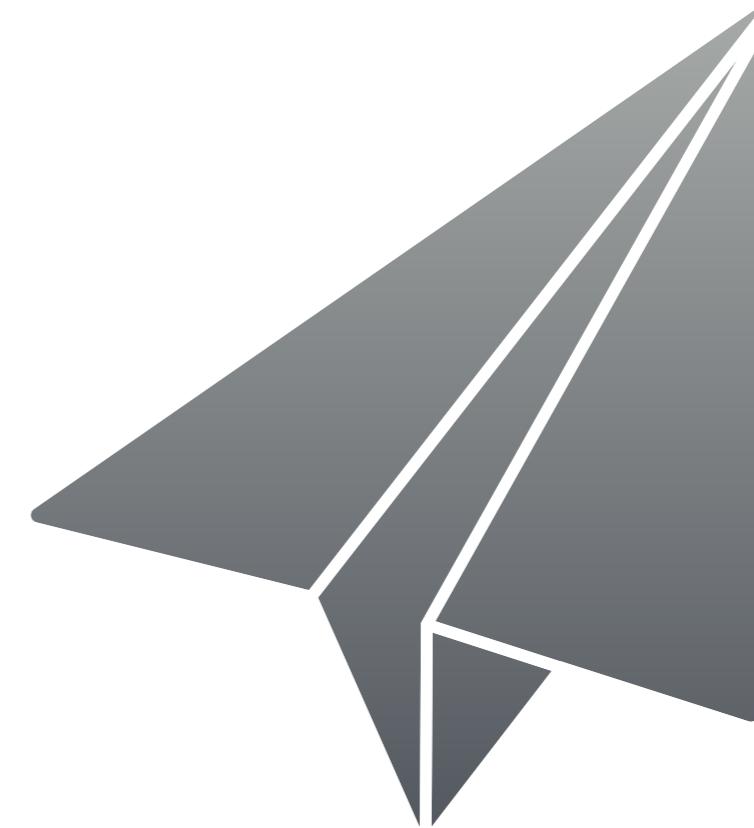
- Cover letter (1 page)
- Legal Guardian Survey (2 pages)
- Former Client Survey (2 pages)
- Follow Up Cover Letter (1 page)
- In-depth interview (1 page)

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The Crisis Residential Center's Directions  
Program Evaluation: For the 2006-2008  
Financial Grant Years Study

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What might the process of  
**Institutional Review Board**  
Look Like at Heritage and  
for your project?

How do I get one of  
those?

**GOLD  
STAR**

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**Informed consent** is defined as a subject's voluntary agreement to participate in research based on a full understanding of the research and of the possible risks and benefits involved. Although it sounds simple, ensuring that one has actually obtained informed consent is a much more complex process than you might initially presume”

– (DeCarlo, 2018, p. 345)

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## Consent Form

### Crisis Residential Center's Direction Program Evaluation 2006-2008

#### Financial Grant Years

**Principal Investigator:** Jacob Campbell, (509) 628-2868;

**Other Investigators:** Shireen Wheeler; Jennifer Boisen

**Responsible Project Investigator:** Dr. Kim Stansbury, [kim\\_stansbury@yahoo.com](mailto:kim_stansbury@yahoo.com)

**Crisis Residential Center Oversight:** Teresa Wright, (509) 532-2000

#### Introduction

We invite your child to participate in a one-on-one in-depth interview regarding their participation in the Crisis Residential Center's (CRC) Directions Program. Your child was selected because they participated in the Directions Program between 2006 and 2008. Participation in this interview is voluntary for your child.

#### Purpose and Benefits

The purpose of this study is to determine how effective the CRC Direction's Program is in assisting clients and their families. The results will be used to help the CRC know if changes need to be made to the Directions Program. Future clients will benefit from this project because they will be provided more effective services. The benefit to your child is the knowledge that their participation will help improve the CRC's Directions Program.

#### Procedures

If you and your child decide to participate, we will interview your child one-on-one for 20-30 minutes. The questions will cover topics such as your child's experience at the CRC, their perception regarding the interventions used, and how the CRC impacted their lives in areas such as their relationship with their families. Examples of questions include; "What was your family like before the CRC?", "What brought you into the CRC?", "Has your life changed since you left the CRC? How?" and "Has your family changed since you left the CRC? How?" Washington State law provides that private conversations may not be recorded, intercepted, or divulged without permission of the individual(s) involved. With your permission, the researchers will use an audio device to record the interview. Your child is free to not answer any question they don't want to and may withdraw from participation at any time without any impact on current or future services.

#### Risk, Stress or Discomfort

There is a possibility that answering the questions might cause some discomfort and/or sadness. The participants will be provided information about First Call for Help to help them deal with any issues that might arise as a result of the interview. In addition, there is a risk of possible violation to you and your child's privacy. While none of the researchers can absolutely guarantee privacy, the following steps will be taken to reduce the risk:

1. The information gathered will be available only to the researchers, management at the CRC, and the research supervisor at Eastern Washington University, Katie Clemons-Handy
2. The audiotapes will be kept in a locked cabinet at the CRC
3. The final paper will not include any information that can be traced back to a particular participant
4. The data will be permanently destroyed by April 30, 2012

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## **Other Information**

In the distribution process that includes a final report to YFA Connections, the EWU School of Social Work, possible presentations and manuscripts, your information will be de-identified (not disclosing your identity) and presented in a collective format and pseudonyms (fictitious initials) will be used to protect your identity. Excerpts from your interviews can potentially be used in the distribution process; however, fictitious initials will be used to protect your identity.

The information gathered will be kept strictly confidential. As previously mentioned, participation is completely voluntary and the participants can withdraw at any time without penalty. The youth who participate in the interviews will be entered into a drawing for a \$20 gift card regardless if they complete the interview or not. If you have any questions regarding this study you can contact Jacob Campbell at (509) 628-2868 or Dr. Kim Stansbury, responsible research investigator, by email at [kim\\_stansbury@yahoo.com](mailto:kim_stansbury@yahoo.com). If you have any concerns about your rights as a participant in this research or any complaints you wish to make, you may contact Ruth Galm, Human Protections Administrator (509-359-7971/6567), [rgalm@ewu.edu](mailto:rgalm@ewu.edu).

Jacob Campbell

Jacob Campbell

Shireen A. Wheeler  
Shireen Wheeler

Shireen Wheeler

Jennifer Boisen  
Jennifer Boisen

Jennifer Baise

The study described above has been explained to me, and I voluntarily consent to allow my child to participate in this interview. I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I give permission to record and/or use conversations in which my child participates during this study. I understand that by signing this form I am not waiving my child's legal rights. I understand that I will receive a signed copy of this form

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian Date

The study has been explained to me, and I voluntarily assent to participate in this interview. I have had an opportunity to ask questions, I give permission to record and/or use conversations in which I participate during this study. I understand that by signing this form I am not waiving my legal rights. I understand that I will receive a signed copy of this form.

**Signature of Participant**

Date

A copy of this form has been provided to both the legal guardian and child



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## Scientific Inquiry in Social Work

### INFORMED CONSENT FORM: FOCUS GROUPS

You are invited to participate in a research project being conducted by Dr. Amy Blackstone, a faculty member in the Department of Sociology at the University of Maine. The purpose of the research is to understand the processes by which adults without children decide to not have children and the social responses to their choice.

#### What Will You Be Asked to Do?

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to respond to questions about your decision to not have children. Specific questions include the following: Why did you make the decision to remain childfree? What do you most enjoy about your childfree lifestyle? What are some of the drawbacks of your childfree lifestyle? How have others responded to your decision? What role does your status as married or single play in people's responses? What role does your identity as heterosexual or homosexual play in people's responses? What does the word "family" mean to you? It will take between 75 and 115 minutes to participate.

#### Risks

- In addition to your time and inconvenience, there is the possibility that you may become uncomfortable answering the questions.
- Due to the focus group format, it is possible the confidentiality of your responses will not be maintained by other focus group participants.

#### Benefits

- Except for the compensation you will receive (see below), there are no other benefits to you from participating in this study.
- While this study will have no direct benefit to you, this research will help us learn more about the processes by which some adults choose not to rear children. This population has been understudied in sociological research.

#### Compensation

You will receive \$20 for participating in a focus group.

#### Confidentiality

Your name will not be kept on any documents except a participant key (see below). A pseudonym will be used to protect your identity. The focus group will be tape recorded and then transcribed. Recordings will be stored in a locked file cabinet inside Dr. Blackstone's locked office and destroyed after data analysis is complete (by or before August 2010). Research assistant Alyssa Radmore will have access to the data in Dr. Blackstone's office when Dr. Blackstone is present. Your name or other identifying information will not be reported in any publications. The key linking your name to the data will be destroyed after data analysis is complete. Written focus group transcripts will be kept indefinitely in Dr. Blackstone's locked office. These transcripts will not contain any identifying information such as your name. Because individuals in addition to the researchers will be present during the focus group, your confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

#### Voluntary

Participation is voluntary. If you choose to take part in this study, you may stop at any time during the study. Stopping the study will not alter the compensation you will receive. You may skip any questions you do not wish to answer. Skipping questions will not alter the compensation you will receive.

#### Contact Information

If you have any questions about this study, please contact me by phone (207-581-2392), e-mail ([amy.blackstone@umit.maine.edu](mailto:amy.blackstone@umit.maine.edu)), or mail (University of Maine Department of Sociology, 5728 Fernald Hall, Orono, ME 04469). If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact Gayle Anderson, Assistant to the University of Maine's Protection of Human Subjects Review Board, at 207-581-1498 (or e-mail [gayle.anderson@umit.maine.edu](mailto:gayle.anderson@umit.maine.edu)).

Figure 5.1 Sample informed consent form

(DeCarlo, 2018)

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## Anonymity

the identity of research participants is not known to researchers

## Confidentiality

identifying information about research participants is known to the researchers but is not divulged to anyone else

# IDENTITY PROTECTIONS

*(DeCarlo, 2018)*

## ETHICS IN SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH



# CONSIDERATIONS IN RESEARCH PRACTICE

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Social Science Research Methods



Level of inquiry	Focus	Key ethics questions for researchers to ask themselves
Micro	Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does my research impinge on the individual's right to privacy?</li><li>• Could my research offend subjects in any way?</li><li>• Could my research cause emotional distress to any of my subjects?</li><li>• Has my own conduct been ethical throughout the research process?</li></ul>
Mezzo	Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does my research follow the ethical guidelines of my profession and discipline?</li><li>• Could my research negatively impact a community?</li><li>• Have I met my duty to those who funded my research?</li></ul>
Macro	Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does my research meet the societal expectations of social research?</li><li>• Have I met my social responsibilities as a researcher?</li></ul>

(DeCarlo, 2018)

# AUSCHWITZ

Nazi concentration and extermination  
camp (1940–1945)

- Should data gathered by the Nazis be used or cited today?
- What arguments can you make in support of your position, and how would you respond to those who disagree?

## ETHICS IN SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH



# CODE OF ETHICS

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- ★ Monitor and evaluate policies, programs, and practice interventions
- ★ Contribute to the development of knowledge through research
- ★ Keep current with the best available research evidence to inform practice
- ★ Ensure voluntary and fully informed consent of all participants
- ★ Not engage in any deception in the research process

(NASW, 2017)

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- ★ Allow participants to withdraw from the study at any time
- ★ Provide access for participants to appropriate supportive services
- ★ Protect research participants from harm
- ★ Maintain confidentiality
- ★ Report findings accurately
- ★ Disclose any conflicts of interest



(NASW, 2017)