

# **Informed Consent for Participation in LGBTQ Oral History Project:**

## **Purpose of the Project:**

The oral history project is intended to add an important dimension to the LGBT Collection of the Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine. The existing collection, housed in Special Collections at the University of Southern Maine, includes personal and organizational papers, photographs, and other artifacts documenting decades of LGBT activism, culture, commerce, and community in Maine. Through the oral history project, voices and stories of key figures in the Southern Maine LGBT community will be preserved and made available to the public in an effort to enrich our understanding and to serve as an important resource for scholars working on LGBT history.

The Principle Investigator for this project is Dr. Wendy Chapkis, Professor of Sociology and Women & Gender Studies at the University of Southern Maine. Dr. Chapkis is also the Faculty Scholar for the Sampson Center LGBT Collection. The project integrates USM student researchers into community-based research as interviewers and transcribers of the oral histories.

## **Description of Procedure:**

If you agree to participate in this project, you will be asked to share your history and experiences with, and knowledge of, LGBT life, politics, culture, commerce and community in a recorded interview of approximately 60 to 90 minutes in length. If that time is insufficient, a second time to meet can be arranged or the interview can simply be ended, as you would prefer.

Interviews will be audio and/or video recorded and may be subsequently used in audio, video, printed, or other media, accounts or documentaries of LGBT history in Maine. The recordings will be deposited in the Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine's LGBT Collection and made available to scholars and to the public (with any restrictions that you may want to make on your deed of gift).

## **Risks and Benefits of Participation**

### **Risks:**

- You may find that people – including family members or other members of your community – disagree with your opinions or interpretations of historical events.
- Identifying publicly with the LGBT community still carries risks of discrimination, hatred, and even violence.

### **Benefits:**

- Your participation contributes to the preservation of LGBT history.

- You may also gain some public recognition for your contributions to that history and to this project.

### **Voluntary Participation/Withdrawal:**

Your participation is voluntary. If you choose not to participate, it will not affect your current or future relations with the University. You may refuse to answer any question and you may stop the interview at any time for any reason.

There is no penalty for not participating or for discontinuing your participation.

### **Contacts and Questions:**

The student researchers conducting the interviews for this study work under the direction of Wendy Chapkis, USM Department of Sociology and Women & Gender Studies Program. For questions or more information concerning this project, you may contact her at (207) 780-4757 or [Chapkis@maine.edu](mailto:Chapkis@maine.edu).

If you have questions about your rights as an interview subject, you may also contact: Director, Office of Research Compliance, USM at (207) 780-4517, or [usmirb@usm.maine.edu](mailto:usmirb@usm.maine.edu) or TTY (207) 780-5646.

### **Copy of Consent Form:**

You will be given a copy of this form to keep with your records and for future reference.

### **Statement of Consent:**

I have read (or have had read to me) the contents of this consent form and have been encouraged to ask questions. I have received answers to my questions. I give my consent to participate in this project. I have received (or will receive) a copy of this form.

### **Narrator/Interviewee:**

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Name (printed)	Signature	Date
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### **Researcher(s):**

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Name (printed)	Signature	Date
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Name (printed)	Signature	Date
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