InM Group Introduction

Thank you for coming today to volunteer in the study. Today, I will give you a description of the study, and then ask you to sign some informed consent forms.

My name is Joy. I'm a Masters' student at the MIT Media Lab. My thesis research is in developing technologies for people, specifically those who are dealing with dire situations, such as if someone close to them is suffering from a health or life-threatening situation, or if they are bereaved.

Based on previous research, I've designed an application called InMind. The purpose of this application is to help people keep connected with and moderate communication with their friends and other loved ones. Now, we're running a study to determine how and to what degree InMind can help people manage support and communicate with loved ones.

As part of this study, you will be asked to install and use InMind, as well as invite some of your friends to be a part of your InMind group for three weeks. Whenever your group, including you, reaches a membership of three, the three weeks will begin. From then on, the application will be available on your phone, and you can use it as frequently as you like.

Because this is a research study, there are some things you should know:

1. Everything you do on the application will be saved on the servers here at the Media Lab, and be analyzed as part of the study. For example, we will log when you send messages and who they go to. There is one notable exception. As mentioned on the consent form, for any stories and messages that involve a text body, the text will encrypted before being pushed to the server, so nobody besides you and the recipient(s) will ever read it.

2. To help me understand your experience, I'd like to interview you twice during the study. The first would be as soon as we can schedule it (if we haven't yet), and the last would be after the conclusion of the study. These can be in person or over the phone. If you would not like to be interviewed for either one, please indicate it on the sheet I'm about to give you.

3. At the end of each week, I will email you a questionnaire for you to fill out.

4. At the end of the study, InMind will stop working, and you'll be asked to remove it from your phone.

5. Also at the end of the study, you will be compensated up to $60. If you would like to quit the study at any point, for whatever reason, please just let me know. You will be compensated $1 for each day you were in the study. You will also be paid $5 for every week of the study you complete, and $10 for each of the interviews you held with me.

If you have questions, suggestions, or any other thoughts, please email, call, or text me at joyc@mit.edu and (510) 565 – 8416. I welcome feedback of any sort at any time!