

## Sample Consent Form #1

### Guardian (DCFS) Consent for Teen's Participation in "XYZ" Project

As legal guardian/custodian of \_\_\_\_\_, minor (referred to as "the teen"), DCFS ID# \_\_\_\_\_, DOB \_\_\_\_\_, I hereby give my consent for him/her to participate in the "XYZ" Project. I am giving consent to the following conditions and understandings:

- The ABC research group is doing a research study about the health and well-being of teenagers who have been involved with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The intent of the Project is to determine if there are any significant differences in levels of health and well-being among adolescents who have experienced DCFS involvement i.e, family preservation, group home/institutions, non-related foster care, and relative foster care. We may make recommendations to DCFS for improvement in its services based on the results of this study, but we do not work for DCFS. The researcher will tell the teen that his/her participation is voluntary and in no way affects the services s/he receives from DCFS.
- The participation of the teen will involve one 45 minute interview, in which the teen will complete a structured questionnaire, entitled "DEF," developed by Dr. Ask Me. The interview will be conducted by a trained interviewer with professional experience in social services and/or survey research. The questions cover different areas of the child's life, including school functioning, health and well-being, physical activity and mental health.
- Participation will be completely voluntary. The teen will be advised prior to the interview that she/he may decline to answer any or all questions asked and that no one will be told of that decision not to answer questions. There will be no negative consequences to the teen if the interview is terminated prematurely. If a teen refuses to participate in this project, she/he will not be denied any services or benefits from DCFS to which she/he is entitled. The interview will not be conducted unless the researcher has obtained a signed assent form on the teen.
- The information provided by the teen in the interviews will be confidential and anonymous. Only designated project staff will have access to this information. DCFS staff will have access to the information reported in the aggregate, with no identifying information. No report or analysis produced by the project will identify the teen or permit attribution of responses to the child. The only exception to this guarantee of confidentiality will be in the child's disclosure of information that she/he is currently being abused or neglected, is currently being put at serious risk of abuse/neglect, or is at risk of harm to him/her self. Such information will be reported to the Department of Children and Family Services as required by law. The teen will be advised of this requirement prior to being asked to give assent to be interviewed.
- The teen will be offered a \$X gift certificate to McDonald's for participation in the interview. The teen will be assured that this gift is not contingent upon answering any of the questions on the interview instrument. The teen will also receive the certificate if he/she decides not to participate in the interview, chooses not to answer all individual questions, or decides to terminate the interview prior to completion of the questionnaire.
- The primary benefit to the subject is that they will be contributing to the knowledge base in child welfare regarding the health and well-being of youth being served. This research may also be helpful to society in offering more clarity about the needs of youth in various types of care settings.
- The primary risk to the teens is that questions about current well-being could cause psychological distress. To minimize this risk, interviewers will be instructed to pass over any part of the questioning that appears to be distressing. The teen may also divulge information about abuse or neglect that must

be reported to DCFS, which could lead to adverse emotional, psychiatric or social consequences. If the teen exhibits or reports distress that requires premature termination of the interview, the researcher will contact the teen's foster parent, guardian, or DCFS worker so that they may address the teen's distress.

- If I have any questions or concerns about this study, I may contact either the Principal Investigator or the Co-Principal Investigator at the address and phone numbers below (and, I am welcome to call collect):

Principal Investigator Phone # and Address

Co-Principal Investigator Phone # and Address

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I have read the above and hereby give consent for my ward to be interviewed for the "XYZ" Project.  
I have been given a copy of this consent.

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Name

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Date

The Executive Secretary of the ABC Institutional Review Board can answer any questions about the general rights of research projects (address, phone numbers).

## Sample Consent Form #2

### Teens Written Assent to Participate in the "XYZ" Project

I agree to participate in a study for the ABC research group about the current health and well-being of teenagers who have been involved with DCFS. The DCFS guardian has given consent for you to talk to me. However, I can choose not to talk to you. Whether I participate or not in the discussion, my services from DCFS will not be affected.

I understand that you want to know how teens with prior involvement with DCFS are doing. Knowing how teens are doing in different types of situations will help DCFS plan services better for all teens. So, it would help you and DCFS plan services better for other teens. However, I do not have to talk to you if I don't want to and I don't have to answer any questions you ask me if I don't want to. It is OK to stop talking whenever I want. If I want to stop the interview, or just not answer a question, I'll tell you. I won't get into any trouble or be punished for choosing not to answer a question or finish this interview. Helping you in this project is not required by DCFS, and any services and benefits I am getting from DCFS will be in no way affected if I decide not to participate in this project. By participating in this project, I will be teaching you more about the health and well-being of teens who have been in contact with the child welfare system. I will be answering questions about different parts of my life, like school, family and friends. It is possible that one of these topics may upset me to talk about it. If anything we talk about today upsets me, I will let you know and you will let my foster parent, caseworker or guardian know so that someone can talk with me about this experience.

I understand that you will be using number codes instead of names for this project, so that my answers are confidential. That means that no one will know where this specific information came from and they won't be able to connect it to me. The only time you would have to tell someone something I said is if I tell you that an adult has recently physically or sexually abused me or neglected me because you want to protect me from hurt. You would also need to tell someone if I indicated that there is a risk of me hurting myself or someone else. In all cases, you need to contact DCFS and let them know.

To thank me for taking the time to answer these questions for you, you will give me a \$X gift certificate to McDonald's. You will give me this certificate, even if I decide to stop participating in this study partway through, or skip any questions.

The interview should take about 45 minutes. You will leave a copy of this paper for me, so if I want to contact someone later about this project, I can do so. If I have any questions about this study, I can reach one of the following people. I understand that that I can call them collect.

Principal Investigator Phone # and Address

Co-Principal Investigator Phone # and Address

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I have read the above and understand it. By signing and dating this piece of paper, I understand that I am agreeing to participate in the "XYZ" Project. I have been given a copy of this piece of paper.

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Name

Date

The Executive Secretary of the ABC Institutional Review Board can answer any questions about the general rights of research subjects (address, phone numbers).