

Parental Informed Consent Form
The Pennsylvania State University
Focus Group Participation

TITLE OF PROJECT: Social Responsibility and Prevention

PERSONS IN CHARGE: Dr. Constance A. Flanagan
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The Pennsylvania State University
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The study in which your child will be participating is part of a research program of The Pennsylvania State University under the supervision of Professor Constance Flanagan and Dr. Leslie Gallay, faculty members in the College of Agriculture and at the Population Research Institute. This study focuses on the factors that encourage young people to be responsible for one another.

If you agree to allow your child to take part in this research, he/she will be asked to participate in a focus group with other students in which they will be asked to talk about their personal experiences. Specifically, they will be asked to discuss whether and under what circumstances they would be willing to intervene in the risk behavior of their friends, how they respond when friends do something that is risky such as smoking or drinking, or what steps they take to avoid such situations.

In the focus groups we also want to explore the roles of trust and social responsibility and their connection to prevention. We want to understand why some teens choose to intervene in other's actions while others do not.

We do not anticipate any risks from participating in this study (that is, not beyond those encountered in the course of everyday life). You should remember that during each of the discussions your child does not have to answer any question(s) that he/she does not wish to answer. They will be free to leave the group at any time. Further, you or your child may ask questions about research procedures at any time and these questions will be answered. Further questions should be directed to Professor Flanagan or Dr. Gallay (at the addresses above).

The information your child gives us is confidential unless subpoenaed by a court of law. To protect your child's identity, they will not be identified personally in any way. Although the focus group discussion will be recorded, all recordings will be destroyed as soon as they are transcribed. Until then, recordings will be kept under lock and key with only Dr. Flanagan or Dr. Gallay able to access them. In the event of publication of this research, no personally identifying information will be disclosed.

Informed Consent
(Parent or Guardian)

This is to certify that I, _____, hereby agree to allow my
(Parent or Guardian's Name)

child _____ to volunteer in this scientific investigation as an authorized part of the education and research program of The Pennsylvania State University under the supervision of Dr. Constance A. Flanagan.

I understand the information given to me. The investigation and my child's part in it have been fully explained to me and I have received answers to any questions I may have had about the research procedure. I understand and agree to the conditions of this study as described.

I understand that my child will be part of a group process where he/she will be asked to share opinions with other students. If we speak about the contents of the focus group outside the group, we agree not to reveal to other people what individual participants said.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, my child has no physical or mental illness or difficulties that would increase the risk to her/him if she/he participates in this study.

I understand that my child is free to decline to answer specific questions or items in the interview.

I understand that any data or answers to questions will remain confidential unless subpoenaed by a court of law.

I further understand that I am free to withdraw my consent and terminate my child's participation in this investigation.

I understand that I will receive a signed copy of this consent form.

Date

Parent's (or Guardian's) Signature

I certify that the informed consent procedure has been followed and that I have answered any questions from the participant as fully as possible.

Date

Investigator's Signature

Informed Consent
Student

I, _____, agree to be part of a study about social
(Student's Name)
responsibility and prevention. This study is being done at Penn State University by Professor
Constance Flanagan, Dr. Leslie Gallay and their Penn State students.

I understand that I will be asked to take part in a focus group and will be asked questions about
what I am like and what my friends are like. I do not have to answer any questions I don't want
to answer, and I can leave the group at any time if I want to.

I understand that I will receive a signed copy of this consent form.

Date

Student's Signature

I have explained the study to _____.
Child's Name

Date

Investigator's Signature