**MERCY COLLEGE**

**CHILD ASSENT FOR RESEARCH** [Ages 13-17]

Research Study Title: [Study title]

Person in Charge of the Study: [PI Name]

Version [#, Date]

This paper talks about a study researchers are doing at Mercy College. This paper describes what will happen in the study so you can decide if you want to be in it. You can ask the researchers any questions you want about the study before making your decision about whether or not you want to participate.

**What is this research study about?**

With this study, researchers hope to learn more about … [explain the study in one or two sentences using simple language. Use only one idea per sentence.]

**Why are you asking me to be in this study?**

You are being asked to be in this study because you are between the ages of 13 and 17, … [include simple description of inclusion criteria].

**What will happen if I join this research study?**

If you decide to be in the study and your parents give their permission, you will:

* [Include only the activities the children will do and use one bullet for each item.]
* [Explain in very simple terms exactly what is expected of the child. For example, surveys = “reading and answering questions on a paper/computer screen about…,” interviews = “talking to a person on the research study team about…,” medical records = “looking at information from your past doctor visits”]
* [If any audio- or video-recording will take place, include that here and explain why recording is needed, and whether they can still be in the study if they choose not to be recorded.]
* [Explain how long the study will last and how much time they will have to spend at each visit.]
* [If this is a longitudinal study, a table or timeline graphic illustrating what is expected and when can be useful.]

**What are the risks of being in this study?**

Sometimes there are risks of participating in research studies. The main risks for this study include:

* [Describe the risks in simple terms and use one bullet for each risk.]
* [*If appropriate, include:* Some of the things you do in this study might make you uncomfortable or be hard to do. You can skip anything you don’t want to do or stop doing the study at any time.]

Researchers will do their best to make sure you are comfortable during the study. They will not share what you say or do with anyone that is not part of the study team. When they are finished doing this study, they will write a report about what they learned. The report will not list your name. No one will know you were in the study unless you tell them. [*If appropriate, include if their parents will be there with them during the study.*] [*If appropriate, include here in simple terms if there are any limits of confidentiality, e.g., disclosures of abuse.*]

**Could this research help me?**

[*Include the most appropriate statement for the study:*]

Researchers think being in this research study may help you because…

OR

This research may not help you. Researchers hope that the things they learn from this research study might someday help other kids who…

**Will I be paid to be in this study?**

[*Only include this section if the child gets compensation for participating.*]

If you are in the study, you will be paid [$…]. [Include any information about how compensation will be received (e.g., gift card, cash) and when (e.g., after each study visit, at the end of the study). If compensation will be emailed to participants, include language that explains if the child does not have an email address, their compensation (e.g., electronic gift card) will be emailed to their parent/guardian.]

**Do I have to be in this research study?**

You don’t have to be in this study if you don’t want to be. It is okay to say you want to be in the study now but change your mind later. If you want to stop, you can just tell someone on the study team. You won’t get in trouble if you say no or want to stop being in the study.

**What do I do if I have a question?**

You can ask questions at any time. The researchers want you to understand what you will be doing as part of this study and they want to answer all your questions. If you think of a question later, you or your parents can contact the research study team and they can answer your questions then.

**Who can I call with my questions?**

If you have any questions about this research study, you can call [name] at [phone] or email [XXX@mercy.edu]. [*If conducting student research,* ***add****:* You can also contact my advisor (name) at (phone #) or (Mercy email address). *If conducting international student research,* ***add****:* You can also contact (name) at (phone #) or (email address), who lives in your area.]

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you can contact Dr. Francine Seruya of the Mercy College’s Institutional Review Board at 914-674-7816 or email her at MCirb@mercy.edu.

**How do I join the study?**

[*If obtaining written consent, the person obtaining assent should ask the child the following questions to assess understanding. If the child is unable to answer correctly, the appropriate section of the assent form should be reviewed again with the child.*]

1. Can you tell me what this study is about?
2. What is something that you will be asked to do in the study?
3. Can you tell me one of the risks of the study?
4. Will this study help you?
5. Will the researchers ever tell someone you were in this study?
6. Do you have to be in this study?

By signing below, you agree to volunteer to be in this research study. You have read this form and understand what you will be asked to do as part of the study. If there is anything you don’t understand, you can ask questions at any time. Even after signing your name below, you can change your mind at any time and stop being in the study.

You will be given a copy of this form.

Printed Name of Participant Signature of Participant

Printed Name of Researcher Signature of Researcher

Date and Time

[*If obtaining phone/verbal consent, the person obtaining assent should ask the child the following questions to assess understanding. If the child is unable to answer correctly, the appropriate section of the assent form should be reviewed again with the child.*]

1. Can you tell me what this study is about?
2. What is something that you will be asked to do in the study?
3. Can you tell me one of the risks of being in the study?
4. Will this study help you?
5. Will the researchers ever tell someone you were in this study?
6. Do you have to be in this study?
7. Do you agree to volunteer as a participant in this research study?

Would you like a copy of this form?

[*If obtaining online consent:*]

Clicking the link below confirms that you have read and understood the information in this document, are [insert age range] and that you agree to volunteer as a research participant for this study.

You can print a copy of this form.

<include URL>