**MERCY COLLEGE**

**CHILD ASSENT FOR RESEARCH** [Ages 7-12]

Research Study Title: [Study title]

Person in Charge of the Study: [PI Name]

Version [#, Date]

**What is a research study?**

Research studies help researchers learn new things about people. They discover new things by asking questions and trying to find the answers. Sometimes they need help from other people to answer these questions. This form talks about a study researchers are doing at Mercy College. You can ask the researchers any questions you want about the study. Then you can choose if you want to be in the study.

**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 7 and 12, … [include simple description of inclusion criteria].

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

If you are in this study and your parents or guardians 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 form/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.]
* [Be creative: a table or timeline using pictures showing what is expected can be a helpful way for children to understand research activities, especially if this is a longitudinal study.]

**Are there things I might not like about being in the study?**

[*If appropriate, include:* Some of the things you do might not make you feel good or might 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 don’t feel bad. 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/guardians 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…

**Do I get anything for being in this study?**

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

If you are in the study, you will get …

**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. The researchers and your parents or guardians will not be mad at you and 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’ll be doing and they want to answer all your questions. If you think of a question later, you or your parents can call the 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 #]. [*If conducting student research,* ***add****:* or (advisor name) at (phone #). *If conducting international student research,* ***add****:* You can also contact (name) at (phone #) who lives in your area.]

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you can contact Mercy College’s Institutional Review Board at 914-674-7816 or [mcirb@mercy.edu](mailto: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. Can you tell me something that you will be asked to do in the study?
3. Can you tell me something that you might not like about being in this 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 writing your name below, you agree to volunteer to be in this research study. If there is anything you don’t understand, you can ask questions at any time. Even after writing your name below, you 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 (to be written by the child)

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. Can you tell me something that you will be asked to do in the study?
3. Can you tell me something that you might not like about being in this 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 want to be in the study?

Would you like a copy of this form?

[*If obtaining online consent:*]

Clicking the link below means that you have read and understood the information in this form. You are [insert age range] and you want to be in this study.

You can print a copy of this form.

<include URL>

**[Clicking the URL for online studies must not take children directly to online research procedures. The URL can only notify researchers that the child agrees to participate in the study. The URL to begin online research activities may only be linked through the parent permission form.]**