 **Institutional Review Board (IRB)**

**Instructions for Child Assent Form Template**

**You should use this assent form template only if:**

1. You are conducting research with minors (under 12 years of age) **and**
2. Your research poses no greater than minimal risk to minor participants **and**
3. You are seeking parental/guardian consent for research on minors/children.

**You should not use this consent form template if:**

1. You are doing research with adult participants **and/or**
2. Your research poses greater than minimal risk to minor participants.

Risk level is assessed in view of potential harms to participants – these include social, legal, emotional, psychological etc. harms, not just physical harms. Depending on the subject matter with which the research deals and the specific way in which the research is carried out, a study may be considered greater than minimal risk even when using survey or interview (including focus group) methodologies.

**Note:** According to DHHS Regulations “minimal risk” means: “The probability and magnitude of harm or discomfort anticipated in the research are not greater in and of themselves than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during the performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or tests.”

This template is intended to serve as a **GUIDE**. You may need to provide more information and details than are stated in the template. You will most likely need to re-word sentences and/or add your own sentences. You may also need to add information or details that are not directly asked for in the template. Again, this template is intended to serve as a **GUIDE** and is not exhaustive.

**Remember: the Consent Form should contain only information that is applicable and relevant to your study.**

**IMPORTANT:** You should remove the red guidance text as you go through this document, by filling out information specific to your study and/or deleting irrelevant and unnecessary text. The red sentences indicate sections that must be completed by the author of the Consent Form, or serve as guidance and suggestions about what should be included. There should be **no** red sentences left anywhere in the completed Consent Form.

**PLEASE PROOF READ** your completed Assent Form before submitting it. Seemingly minor spelling, grammar, and formatting errors may require you to revise and re-submit, causing unnecessary delays.

**PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE** these instructions in your completed Consent Form.

**NOTE: SEE PARENTAL-GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM for research with minors.**



**Child Assent for Children under Age 12**

(To be read aloud to the child)

My name is [*identify yourself to the child by name*]. I work with parents and children but I am also a student. Right now, I am trying to learn more about [*provide a simple explanation of what the study is about in language that is appropriate to both the child’s maturity and age*].

If you agree, you will be asked to [*describe what will take place using appropriate language from the child’s point of view, including the time involved*].

You may be helping us understand [*describe topic*] or [*say what direct benefits are to child*].

[*If the study takes place in a school, children should know that:*]

If you agree to help us, you should know that your [teacher and classmates] won’t know what you have [*e.g., said, drawn, chosen; whatever the child is being asked to do*]. You should also know that if you decide to help us or if you decide to say “no,” your choice will not affect [*your grades, or whether people like you, or an appropriate statement for the age group*].

[*If the study involves specific questions:*]

There are no right or wrong answers.

Please talk this over with your parents before you decide if you want to be in my study or not.

I will also ask your parents to give their permission for you to be in this study, but even if your parents say “yes,” you can still say “no” and decide not to be in the study.

If you don’t want to be in my study, you don’t have to be in it. Remember, being in the study is up to you and no one will be upset if you don’t want to be in the study or if you decide to stop after we begin, that’s okay, too. [If applicable:] Also, remember that no one else, not even your parents, will know what you’ve [*e.g., said, drawn, chosen, written; whatever the child is being asked to do.*]

You can ask any questions that you have about the study. If you have a question later that you didn’t think of now, you can call me or ask [*your parents, teachers,* *whoever the child may choose*] to call me at: [*insert telephone number*].

Would you like to [*e.g., play a game, talk to me, draw a picture; whatever the activity is*]?

[Child answers yes or no; only a definite yes may be taken as assent to participate.]