Murray State University – Child/Minor Assent Document Template

Ver. – 021717

If children are to be enrolled in a study, adequate provisions must be made for soliciting assent of the children and permission of their parents or guardians. The purpose of this template is to assist investigators and research personnel in creating assent documents and to facilitate consistency and accuracy of assent language across research protocols.

Sections of this document include brief instructions to provide the user with a general overview of information required in the section. The instructions and optional text are in blue and required text is in black. These instructions and the sample language are not intended to be comprehensive. Investigators are encouraged to modify the template language whenever appropriate to increase the potential for subject comprehension and relevancy to a specific study.

**DELETE THIS PAGE, ALL INSTRUCTIONS (BLUE TEXT), AND ANY NON-APPLICABLE SECTIONS BEFORE SUBMITTING THIS FORM TO THE IRB.**

**Tips for writing assent forms:**

* Ages 0-7: An oral assent process is generally used.
* Ages 8-12: This assent template may be used for children ages 8 through 17.
* Cognitively impaired: This template may also be used when obtaining assent from individuals who lack the capacity to provide consent.
* The investigator should respect the decision of a minor or cognitively impaired participant to not participate, even when the parent or legally authorized representative is willing to sign the Informed Consent document.
* Assent is a process, not just a form. Information must be presented to enable persons to voluntarily decide whether or not to participate as a research subject.
* Write directly to the reader, as though you are explaining the facts in person. Assent language should be written in the second person (“you”), not in the first person (“I”).
* Minimize passive voice to the extent possible. Example of passive voice: “A summary of results will be sent to all study participants.” Example of active voice: “We will send you a summary of the results.”

**Use of MSU departmental letterhead is strongly encouraged. Otherwise, there should be a clear indication that this research is being done by MSU.**

**Assent Form for Research Participation**

**Study Title:** Must be the same as IRB Application.

**Primary Investigator:** {PI NAME, DEPT} or {STUDENT and FACULTY NAME, DEPT} – Same as application.

**Co-Investigator(s):** Everyone included in application. Remove if none.

We are asking you whether you want to be in a research study. Research is a way to test new ideas and learn new things. You do not have to be in the study if you do not want to. You can say Yes or No. If you say yes now, you can change your mind later. If you don’t want to be in the study or change your mind later, it won’t affect your grades or other school activities.

Ask questions if there is something that you do not understand. After all of your questions have been answered, you can decide if you want to be in this study or not.

This study is about {briefly describe the purpose of the study}.

We are asking you if you want to be in this study because {insert brief description of study population}.

If you take part in this study, we will ask you to {include all study activities in simple terms}.

Some things that might happen to you if you are in this study are {include any risks in simple terms}.

Some good things that might happen to you if you are in this study are {include any direct benefits. Delete if no direct benefits. Do not include compensation in any form}. We are not sure that these things will happen. We might also find out things that will help other children someday.

We will write a report when the study is over, but we will not use your name in the report.

If you want to be in the study, sign your name on the line below.

Participant's Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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(Signature of Participant) (Date)

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(Signature of Person Obtaining Assent) (Date)