

EXAMPLE



INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

STATEMENT OF MINOR ASSENT

[INSERT TITLE & PROTOCOL NUMBER]

[EXAMPLE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT UNDER 18]

This is an example; the language should be modified for your proposal as necessary.

Two forms must be submitted to the IRB for approval if the proposal involves minors: one form for the parent/guardian and one for the minor. Each form should be written in language appropriate to the educational level of the parent and child.

My name is _____ and I am a researcher at the University of Detroit Mercy. I am conducting a study to learn about the problems that families face. I am asking you to be part of the study. If you choose to participate, you will fill out a questionnaire that asks about your behavior with your family, friends, and teachers. It will take you about 20 minutes to answer all of the questions. *[Insert if appropriate: You will receive _____ when you complete the questionnaire.]*

If you are willing to participate, we will also seek permission from your parent or legal guardian. You are not required to participate if you prefer not to.

Some questions may be upsetting. If you decide to fill out the questionnaire but do not want to answer certain questions, then that is fine. You can just leave them blank. If you decide to start answering questions and then decide to stop, that is okay, too. If you do not want to complete the questionnaire, no one will treat you and differently, and no one will know unless you tell them. In the final study, you will not be identified by name.

[Sometimes needed with minors when interviewing about high risk behaviors: The only exception to this would be if in talking to you, the researchers find that there is something happening in your life that is an immediate and serious danger to your health or physical safety. In that case, your parents or another professional might have to be contacted. We would always talk to you about this first.]

[Include if appropriate: Your interview will be audio-recorded, so that your answers can be recorded accurately.]

You can ask questions now or while you are doing the study. If you have questions after completing the questionnaire, your parents or guardians have my contact information.

EXAMPLE

STATEMENT OF ASSENT:

By signing the form, I agree to participate in this study. I understand that I may change my mind at any time.

Signature of participant (under 18)

Date

Printed name

Birthdate of participant

Signature of witness (18 years of age or older)

Date