

**ARC Community Services, INC
AODA Services**

**INFORMED CONSENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN
ARC Smart Start**

About ARC's Smart Start Project

ARC will be using a series of individual sessions related to preventing alcohol exposed pregnancies by not drinking when pregnant or more effectively using birth control methods for clients agreeing to participate who are receiving AODA treatment in any of ARC's programs. As part of this study ARC staff and Dr. Thomas Ebert, the evaluator, will ask questions about your experiences during and after the FASD individual sessions. Our project will not interfere with your treatment at any time. The purpose is to find out if this form of FASD intervention is helpful to you and your family by reducing the potential effect of drinking on children.

Voluntary Participation and Freedom to Withdraw Consent

Your participation in Smart Start is completely voluntary and is not a requirement for receiving or continuing whatever AODA treatment you seek in any ARC program. It is also not a required part of your probation or parole rules or related in any way to court-ordered treatment if that is required. If you want to withdraw (yourself or any other participating family members) from the study at any time you are free to do so without any penalty. The information collected from you up to that point would be destroyed if you so desire. You will receive a gift card to compensate you for spending the time to answer the evaluator's questions after the second and last interview sessions.

Confidentiality

All information you provide will be strictly confidential and will not be identified or shared with your name to any ARC treatment staff or any other source without your written permission. All ARC and evaluation staff are monitored and trained in safeguarding your identity and the information you provide. The purpose of obtaining the information is to see if as a group women who receive the FASD prevention sessions have more positive treatment results than women who do not receive that form of AODA treatment.

Risks and Benefits of Participating in ARC Smart Start

Safeguards are in place to assure that confidentiality of your information will not be breached, and that your participating, or not participating, will not have any effect on your legal status or your ability to receive whatever ARC AODA treatment you are seeking. While your participation in this study may not benefit you directly, it is expected that treatment will have positive treatment outcomes for most participating women. Your participation may benefit many women and their families by reducing the potential for giving birth to a child suffering from a range of physical, developmental, and cognitive effects related to drinking during pregnancy.

Addressing any Questions or Concerns you have about Participating

If you have any questions or complaints about your treatment as a participant in this study, please call or write:

**ARC Community Services, INC
AODA Services**

Ms. Karen Kinsey,
Executive Director of ARC Community Services, Inc.
2001 W. Beltline Hwy. Suite 102
Madison, WI
(608) 278-2300

Or

Dr. Thomas Ebert, Head Evaluator
743 Park Street
Wrightstown, WI 54180
(920) 532-3887

This consent is valid for up to fifteen months or for the period in which you are at an ARC AODA Services program, whichever is less. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time, in writing, except to the extent that action has already been taken while the consent was in effect.

I have received an explanation of this study and agree to participate

Participant Signature

Date

Counselor/Witness Signature

Date