

DRAFT Letter to Interviewees for Psychological Autopsies

Date:

To

[Name & Address of Potential Interviewee]

Dear [Name of Potential Interviewee],

I am writing to inform you about a study we are doing and to request an hour of your time for us to speak with you.

Over 700 deaths occur annually on railroad property. We are studying a sample of these railroad deaths in order to develop strategies to prevent this tragic loss of life. We are interviewing families and friends of individuals who have recently died on railroad property, in order to better understand the circumstances in the lives of these individuals. We hope that this understanding will enable us to design appropriate strategies to prevent such deaths in the future. We would greatly appreciate an opportunity for one of our trained staff to speak with you for approximately an hour regarding the death of your loved one.

We would like to assure you that all information we collect will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Neither your identity nor that of your loved one will be reported or released. Data collected in this study will be coded to remove all identifying information and will only be reported in aggregate form.

We will follow up with you by phone to answer any questions you may have and possibly set up a time to meet with you. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 202-237-2280.

I look forward to your support to prevent these tragedies.

Sincerely,

Karen Marshall
Project Manager