

Appendix D. Consent Forms

Informed Assent for Participants Under 18 Practitioner-Administered

OVERVIEW

The Urban Institute is conducting a study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to examine the intersection of domestic human trafficking with child welfare and runaway and homeless youth programs. The goal of this study is to pre-test and further develop a screening tool intended to identify victims of human trafficking among child welfare-involved and runaway and homeless youth-involved youth populations. Improved screening for cases of human trafficking among this population will help service providers better target and deliver services to those who need them.

PROCEDURES

If you are between the ages of 12 and 24 and involved in the child welfare system or receiving runaway and homeless youth services, you are invited to participate in this study. I am reading you the assent procedures for a participant under the age of 18 based on your age that you told me—please correct me if you are not under the age of 18. Giving us your “informed assent” means that you understand the risks and benefits of this study and actively agree to participate in it. If you choose to participate, I will ask you a series of questions and record your responses on a computer/tablet or piece of paper. This should take approximately 15 minutes. You will receive a **\$25 gift card** as a token of thanks for participating in the study.

During the study, you will be asked questions about experiences trading sex for money, food, shelter, drugs, etc., in addition to experiences involving being forced or manipulated into working for someone who used abusive labor practices. You may refuse to answer any questions or stop your participation in this study at any time and for any reason.

PRIVACY

Everything you tell me will be private to the extent permitted by law. I will not ask you your name or have you write or sign your name anywhere, and the people who see your answers will not know your name. In order to keep your participation in this study private, we ask that you not discuss what you (or others) say during the course of the study. No one except me will know that you are the person who responded to these questions today. There are three **exceptions** to this promise of privacy:

1. If you tell me you are going to hurt yourself badly, or I think you might try to kill yourself, I will get help for you by reporting the situation to the appropriate authorities. I **will not ask** you any questions about this, but if you choose to talk to me about it, I will have to alert authorities.

2. If you tell me you are going to hurt someone else or you are aware of serious harm that may be done to someone else, I will take steps to protect that person by reporting the situation to the appropriate authorities. I **will not ask** you any questions about this, but if you choose to talk to me about it, I will have to alert authorities.
3. Any case of suspected physical or sexual abuse and/or neglect of children (anyone under the age of 18, including yourself and others) must be reported to Child Protective Services. I **will ask** you some questions that relate to physical or sexual abuse or neglect that you have faced. For example, to determine whether you are a victim of human trafficking, I will ask you if someone has forced you to do work without paying you or to engage in sexual acts. If you answer “yes” to any of these types of questions, you are admitting to being a victim of a form of child abuse. I am required to report any child abuse to Child Protective Services. In summary, IF YOU DISCLOSE ANY CHILD ABUSE TO ME, YOUR RESPONSE WILL NO LONGER BE ANONYMOUS. I will have to report such abuse and include your name in the report.

RISKS AND BENEFITS

Some questions may make you sad or bring up bad memories. You may refuse to answer any questions or end your participation at any time, and doing so will NOT affect any services you may be receiving. You will also be given a resource referral card prior to beginning the study. This card will list local resources and social workers who are available to help you if you feel distressed after the study is completed. We also have emergency phone numbers on hand at all times, and we would be happy to connect you with immediate services either during or after the study, if you request that we do so.

One benefit of participating in this study is that you will be providing important information that will help agencies develop more targeted and effective services for young people at-risk for human trafficking. Many young people also appreciate the opportunity to share or reflect on their life experiences through participation in this research. Further, participating in this research will give you the opportunity to connect with resources and express your specific needs, if you choose to do so.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Should you have any further questions, you may contact Meredith Dank (mdank@urban.org; 347-404-7990) or Mike Pergamit (mpergamit@urban.org; 202-261-5276). You can also contact the Urban Institute’s Institutional Review Board by contacting Haley Vandermeer (hvanderme@urban.org; 202-261-5661).

PARTICIPANT'S INFORMED ASSENT

Giving us your “informed assent” means that you understand the risks and benefits of this study and actively agree to participate in it. We are now going to ask you to say out loud whether you agree to participate in this study. If you agree to participate, you are agreeing that:

- I understand that I will receive a \$25 gift card as a token of thanks for my participation in the study.
- I understand that all the information that I provide will remain private to the extent permitted by law.
- I understand that if I disclose any child abuse or talk about my intent to harm myself or harm someone else, the situation will be reported and my participation and my responses with respect to self-harm, harm of others, or child abuse will no longer be private.
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I may stop at any time or skip any questions.
- I understand that if I stop participating or skip questions, the services I may be receiving will not be affected.
- I know that if I have any questions about this study, I can talk with someone at the agency where I was interviewed and they will answer my questions; or I can contact someone from the Urban Institute at one of the numbers listed under “Contact Information.”
- I agree to the study’s purpose and my involvement.

If you are not sure whether you understand everything I just read, I will be happy to answer any questions you have now, or I can give you some time to talk to agency staff before you decide. Do you agree to participate in this study?

The Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This collection of information is voluntary and will be used to examine the intersection of domestic human trafficking with child welfare and runaway and homeless youth programs. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 17 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB number for this information collection is [NUMBER] and the expiration date is [DATE]. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Meredith Dank; mdank@urban.org.

Informed Assent for Participants Under 18 Self-Administered

OVERVIEW

The Urban Institute is conducting a study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to examine the intersection of domestic human trafficking with child welfare and runaway and homeless youth programs. The goal of this study is to pre-test and further develop a screening tool intended to identify victims of human trafficking among child welfare-involved and runaway and homeless youth-involved youth populations. Improved screening for cases of human trafficking among this population will help service providers better target and deliver services to those who need them.

PROCEDURES

If you are between the ages of 12 and 24 and involved in the child welfare system or receiving runaway and homeless youth services, you are invited to participate in this study. If you are reading this form, you should be **UNDER the age of 18**—if you are 18 or older, please request a different paper form or click back in your browser and select your appropriate age group. If you choose to participate, you will fill out a brief multiple choice survey using either paper and pencil or a computer/tablet. This should take approximately 15 minutes. You will receive a **\$25 gift card** as a token of thanks for participating in the study.

On the survey, you will be asked questions about experiences trading sex for money, food, shelter, drugs, etc., in addition to experiences involving being forced or manipulated into working for someone who used abusive labor practices. You may skip over any questions or stop your participation in the survey at any time and for any reason.

PRIVACY

Everything you report on the survey will be private to the extent permitted by law. You will not write or sign your name anywhere, and the people who see your answers will not know your name or that you are the person who selected your answers. In order to keep your participation in this study private, we ask that you not discuss what you (or others) report during the course of the study.

We ask that you only respond to the multiple choice questions on the survey and do not write anything in the margins, if you are completing the survey by hand. If, for any reason, you *do* write anything on the paper survey, please be aware that we will not be able to link the writing to your identity.

We also ask that you do not speak out loud while taking the survey, except to ask questions. We will not ask you to speak out loud at any point. However, if you do speak out loud, you should be aware that doing so invokes three **exceptions** to our promise of complete privacy:

1. If while you are filling out the survey, you say that you are going to hurt yourself badly or try to kill yourself, I will get help for you by reporting the situation to the appropriate authorities.
2. If while you are filling out the survey, you say that you are going to hurt someone else or you are aware of serious harm that may be done to someone else, I will take steps to protect that person by reporting the situation to the appropriate authorities.
3. If while you are filling out the survey, you verbally report a case of suspected physical or sexual abuse and/or neglect of children (anyone under the age of 18, including yourself and others), I must report it to Child Protective Services. In other words: **IF YOU VERBALLY DISCLOSE ANY CHILD ABUSE TO ME, YOUR RESPONSE WILL NO LONGER BE ANONYMOUS.** I will have to report such abuse and include your name in the report.

RISKS AND BENEFITS

Some questions may make you sad or bring up bad memories. You may refuse to answer any questions or end your participation at any time, and doing so will NOT affect any services you may be receiving. You will also be given a resource referral card prior to beginning the study. This card will list local resources and social workers who are available to help you if you feel distressed after the study is completed. We also have emergency phone numbers on hand at all times, and we would be happy to connect you with immediate services either during or after the study, if you request that we do so.

One benefit of participating in this study is that you will be providing important information that will help agencies develop more targeted and effective services for young people at-risk for human trafficking. Many young people also appreciate the opportunity to share or reflect on their life experiences through participation in this research. Further, participating in this research will give you the opportunity to connect with resources and express your specific needs, if you choose to do so.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PARTICIPANT'S INFORMED ASSENT

Giving us your “informed assent” means that you understand the risks and benefits of this study and actively agree to participate in it. By filling out the survey, you are agreeing to participate and agreeing that:

- I understand that I will receive a \$25 gift card as a token of thanks for my participation in the study.
- I understand that all the information that I provide will remain private to the extent permitted by law.
- I understand that if I disclose any child abuse or talk about my intent to harm myself or harm someone else, the situation will be reported and my participation and my responses with respect to self-harm, harm of others, or child abuse will no longer be private.
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I may stop at any time or skip any questions.
- I understand that if I stop participating or skip questions, the services I may be receiving will not be affected.
- I know that if I have any questions about this study, I can talk with someone at the agency where I was interviewed and they will answer my questions; or I can contact someone from the Urban Institute at one of the numbers listed under “Contact Information.”
- I agree to the study’s purpose and my involvement.

If you are not sure whether you understand everything you just read, agency staff will be happy to answer any questions you have now, or you can take some time to talk to agency staff before you decide whether or not to continue.

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Informed Consent for Participants Age 18 and Older Practitioner-Administered

OVERVIEW

The Urban Institute is conducting a study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to examine the intersection of domestic human trafficking with child welfare and runaway and homeless youth programs. The goal of this study is to pre-test and further develop a screening tool intended to identify victims of human trafficking among child welfare-involved and runaway and homeless youth-involved youth populations. Improved screening for cases of human trafficking among this population will help service providers better target and deliver services to those who need them.

PROCEDURES

If you are between the ages of 12 and 24 and involved in the child welfare system or receiving runaway and homeless youth services, you are invited to participate in this study. I am reading you the consent procedures for a participant age 18 or older based on your age that you told me— please correct me if you are not at least 18 years old. Giving me your “informed consent” means that you understand the risks and benefits of this study and actively agree to participate in it. If you choose to participate, I will ask you a series of questions and record your responses on a computer/tablet or piece of paper. This should take approximately 15 minutes. You will receive a **\$25 gift card** as a token of thanks for participating in the study.

During the study, you will be asked questions about experiences trading sex for money, food, shelter, drugs, etc., in addition to experiences involving being forced or manipulated into working for someone who used abusive labor practices. You may refuse to answer any questions or stop your participation in this study at any time and for any reason.

PRIVACY

Everything you tell me will be private to the extent permitted by law. I will not ask you your name or have you write or sign your name anywhere, and the people who see your answers will not know your name. In order to keep your participation in this study private, we ask that you not discuss what you (or others) say during the course of the study. No one except me will know that you are the person who responded to these questions today. There are three **exceptions** to this promise of privacy:

1. If you tell me you are going to hurt yourself badly, or I think you might try to kill yourself, I will get help for you by reporting the situation to the appropriate authorities.
2. If you tell me you are going to hurt someone else or you are aware of serious harm that may be done to someone else, I will take steps to protect that person by reporting the situation to the appropriate authorities.

The described collection of information is voluntary. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB number for this information collection is [NUMBER] and the expiration date is [DATE].

3. Any case of suspected physical or sexual abuse and/or neglect of children (not yourself, since you are 18 or older, but anyone else who is under 18) must be reported to Child Protective Services.

I **will NOT ask** you any questions about these three things, but if you choose to talk to me about any of them, I will have to alert authorities.

RISKS AND BENEFITS

Some questions may make you sad or bring up bad memories. You may refuse to answer any questions or end your participation at any time, and doing so will NOT affect any services you may be receiving. You will also be given a resource referral card prior to beginning the study. This card will list local resources and social workers who are available to help you if you feel distressed after the study is completed. We also have emergency phone numbers on hand at all times, and we would be happy to connect you with immediate services either during or after the study, if you request that we do so.

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- I understand that if I disclose any child abuse or talk about my intent to harm myself or harm someone else, the situation will be reported and my participation and my responses with respect to self-harm, harm of others, or child abuse will no longer be private.
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I may stop at any time or skip any questions.
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Informed Consent for Participants 18 and Older Self-Administered

OVERVIEW

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PROCEDURES

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RISKS AND BENEFITS

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