

Appendix C: Information and Consent Sheet for Instrument 3

Study Title: Safe Access for Victims' Economic Security (SAVES) – Quantitative Survey with Domestic Violence Advocates

Invitation to Participate: You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by the Center for Policy Research (CPR), as part of the Safe Access for Victims' Economic Security (SAVES) Demonstration. SAVES is a project funded by the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) that aims to improve safety and access within the child support program for domestic violence survivors. This study has been reviewed and approved by the Heartland Institutional Review Board (HIRB).

Before deciding whether to take part, please read the following information. You are encouraged to ask questions. Your participation is voluntary.

Purpose of the Study: The purpose of this research is to learn from DV advocates about how survivors navigate the child support program, what barriers exist, and how systems can better collaborate to ensure survivor safety within and access to the child support program.

Why You Were Selected: You are being asked to participate because you are an advocate who works with DV survivors that might be eligible for and want child support services. Your input will help identify needed improvements and support for survivors.

What Will Happen if You Participate:

- You will complete a one-time online survey that takes approximately 20 minutes.
- The survey will ask about your work with survivors, perceived barriers survivors face when accessing child support, and suggestions for improving interagency coordination.

Risks and Discomforts: This study includes questions about sensitive topics, including experiences of emotional, physical, or psychological harm (e.g., domestic violence or abuse). We recognize that this content may be distressing or triggering. You are never

The Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This collection of information is voluntary and will be used to better understand efforts to increase safe access to child support, parenting time, and establishment of parentage services for survivors of domestic violence. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including time for consent and instructions. 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 and expiration date for this collection are OMB #: XXXX-XXXX, Exp: XX/XX/202X. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Center for Policy Research; 1570 Emerson Street Denver, Colorado 80218

required to answer any question that makes you uncomfortable. You may pause or stop the interview at any time, for any reason, and without penalty.

If you are in need of immediate support, please consider reaching out to a trusted person or a trained professional.

Here is a list of resources:

- **National Domestic Violence Hotline**
Available at: 1-800-799-7233 | www.thehotline.org
Offers: 24/7 confidential support via phone or live chat.
- **Crisis Text Line**
Available at: Text **HELLO** to **741741**
Offers: 24/7 support for any crisis, emotional or psychological.
- **SAMHSA National Helpline**
Available at: 1-800-662-HELP (4357) | samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline
Offers: Free, confidential help in English and Spanish, 24/7.

Benefits: There is no direct personal benefit to you. Your responses may contribute to child support program improvements that help ensure the safety of DV survivors and their access to public benefits.

Compensation: There is no payment for completing the survey.

Privacy: We will take all reasonable steps to protect your identity.

- No names will be collected.
- Any organizational identifiers will not be linked to demographic information.
- Responses will be stored securely on encrypted servers.
- Only the research team will access the data.
- Your responses will not be linked to your name or identifying information. Findings from the study will only be reported in summary form – for example, by showing overall patterns like “75% of respondents said safety was a concern” – so that no individual can be identified from the results.

Voluntary Participation: Participation is voluntary. You may stop at any time or skip any questions. You can also withdraw from the study any time. If you withdraw, you may request that your data be destroyed.

Questions or Concerns:

If you have questions about the study, contact:

Betty Tegegne, Center for Policy Research

Email: betty@centerforpolicyresearch.org

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Heartland Institutional Review Board. There are no anticipated risks to participating in this study. If you have questions about your rights as a participant, contact:

Heartland Institutional Review Board

Phone: 866-618-HIRB (4472)

Email: director@heartlandirb.org

Consent Statement: By checking "I agree to participate," you confirm that:

- You understand the purpose and procedures of the study.
- You are voluntarily choosing to participate.

☐ I agree to participate

☐ I do not agree to participate