

## Assent to Participate in a Research Study

### Who are we and what are we doing?

We are researchers from the psychology department at the University of Utah. We would like to ask if you would be in a research study. A research study is a way to find out new information about something.

**Commented [AS1]:** The assent should explain who the investigators are and what the investigators are doing.

### Why are we asking you to be in this research study?

We are asking you to be in this research study because we want to learn more about why some youth who come into detention come back again. The purpose of this study is to test theories about whether youths' life experiences, ways of feeling, thinking, and relationships with other people will help us understand why some youth will return to detention and others will not over the course of the next three years.

**Commented [AS2]:** The assent should explain what "research" means.

**Commented [AS3]:** The assent should explain why the investigators are asking the child to be in the research study (purpose of the study).

### What happens in the research study?

If you decide to be in this study you will be one of over 300 youth who will be asked to answer questions about the life events you have experienced, and to complete a survey on a computer about your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. You will be asked to answer questions such as, "I watch out for danger or things I am afraid of," "I have trouble concentrating or paying attention," "I express my feelings openly," and "I try to avoid getting too close to people." We also will gather information about how your body reacts. One reaction is called Electrodermal Responding (EDR), which measures sweat on the palm of your hand, and the other is called Respiratory Sinus Arrhythmia (RSA), which is a measure of heart rate. We will gather this information by having you attach sensors (sticky pads) to your body. Your reactions will be measured while you watch a short clip from a PG-rated movie as well as while you tell us about life events of your choice. There will be no pain or discomfort during the testing. In order to help us to correctly record your responses, this part of the study will be audiotaped. The audiotapes will be stored in password-protected electronic files that only the researchers can access, and will be destroyed at the end of the study.

**Commented [AS4]:** The assent should explain what happens in the research study (study procedures).

It will take approximately two hours to gather all information from you, but this will be broken up into two sessions completed while you are at the detention center, or in your home if you are in the community. We will contact you again once a year for the next three years and will invite you to participate in the same study again so we can understand how things might change over time.

In addition to the survey information, we also ask for permission to use some information from your detention records, including your legal history, intake assessments, incident reports, and any legal charges that occur in the next year.

### Will any part of the research study hurt you?

There is a chance that during this research study you could feel uncomfortable answering questions about your life experiences, thoughts, or feelings. We will try to help you feel better if this happens. You will be allowed to stop any time you want to or to not answer any question you do not want to answer.

**Commented [AS5]:** The assent should explain the risks or discomforts.

### Who will see the information about you?

Another possible, but unlikely, risk is a loss of privacy. The researchers have taken many steps to make sure that only the researchers will be able to see the information about you from this research study. We will not tell

**Commented [AS6]:** The assent should explain who will see information about the child (confidentiality).

anyone else that you are in the study and we will not talk about the information you give us with your parents or any judges, probation officers, or detention staff. All of your records about this research study will be kept locked up so no one else can see them. To make sure that everything remains private, every youth will be assigned a random number, which will provide the only identification on all the survey forms completed by you, so that no one will know the answers you give to any question. A confidential list that allows the researchers to connect your forms to your detention records will be kept separate from the surveys in a locked file cabinet at the University and will be destroyed at the end of the study. All data will be stored on a password-protected computer that only the project staff will be able to access.

**To further help us protect your privacy, this study is protected by federal rules that says that no one can force the researchers to tell them your answers to any study questions. However, if we learn that a child or disabled or elderly adult has been abused, neglected, exploited, or you are in danger of hurting yourself or others, we will make a report regarding what we have learned to Child Protective Services or local authorities.**

**Will the research study help you or anyone else?**

We do not know for sure if being in this research study will help you. It is possible that we could learn something to help other youth who come into detention someday. If you do decide to be in this research study, it will not change the general living conditions, medical care, quality of food, amenities, or opportunities for earning while you are in the detention center or at home. If you chose to do the yearly follow-up sessions over the next three years, you will receive a gift card at the end of each of those sessions.

**Commented [AS7]:** The assent should explain any benefits.

**What if you have any questions about the research study?**

It is okay to ask questions. If you don't understand something, you can ask us. If you have a question later that you didn't think of now, you can call the director of the study, <<PI name>>, a Professor of Psychology at the University of Utah at <<phone number and/or email>>, or ask us the next time we see you. If you have questions about your rights or any questions, complaints, or concerns you do not feel you can talk about with the research staff, you may contact the University of Utah Institutional Review Board (IRB) by phone at (801) 581-3655 or by e-mail at [irb@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:irb@hsc.utah.edu).

**Commented [AS8]:** The assent should explain who to contact if there are any questions.

**Do you have to be in the research study?**

You don't have to be in this study if you don't want to. Being in this study is up to you. No one will be upset if you don't want to participate. Even if you say yes now, you can change your mind later if you want to stop. You can take your time to decide and you can talk this over with your parent/legal guardian before you decide whether or not to participate. Even though your parent/legal guardian agreed to give you permission to be in this study, you must agree as well. You may still decide not to do this and there will be no bad consequences for you if you decide not to be in the study. Whether or not you decide to be in this study will have no effect on the way you are treated while in the juvenile justice system or the detention center and will have no effect on how long you stay in detention, probation, when you are released, your legal case, what happens in court, or anything else related to your time in the detention center or juvenile justice system.

**Commented [AS9]:** This assent should explain voluntary participation and that the child may choose not to participate to withdraw without penalty or loss of benefits.

If you turn 18 during this study, and become legally an adult, you will be given the opportunity to sign a consent form to say whether you want to keep participating in the study.

**PLEASE NOTE: Participating in this study requires you to sign BOTH places requested below. If you do not want to sign both places, you are free to not be in this study.**

**Agreeing to reporting**

- Signing my name here means I agree that the researchers will make a report if they learn about actual or suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of a child or disabled or elderly adult or that I am in danger of hurting myself or others.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign your name on this line

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Agreeing to be in the study**

I was able to ask questions about this study. **Signing my name here means that I agree to be in this study. My parent/legal guardian and I will be given a copy of this form after I have signed it.**

- I agree to participate in the study

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign your name on this line

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Person Obtaining Assent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Obtaining Assent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The following should be completed by the study member conducting the assent process if the participant agrees to be in the study. Initial the appropriate selection:

\_\_\_\_\_ The participant is capable of reading the assent form and has signed above as documentation of assent to take part in this study.

\_\_\_\_\_ The participant is not capable of reading the assent form, but the information was verbally explained to him/her. The participant signed above as documentation of assent to take part in this study.

**Commented [AS10]:** The assent should have a statement about agreeing to be in the study.

**Commented [AS11]:** A copy of the assent should be provided.

**CONSENT FOR FOLLOW-UP CONTACT**

I am willing to be contacted again in one year to be invited to participate in the next session of this three-year study. I understand that agreeing to be contacted does not mean that I promise to agree to participate at that time.

I agree to allow the researchers to re-contact me in one year.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/caregiver cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number of another family member who will always know how to reach me: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number of a friend who will always know how to reach me: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

May we privately message you on Facebook?  yes  no

Your Facebook url: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you on other social media sites where we can link up with you to send you private messages?

Instagram: \_\_\_\_\_

Kik: \_\_\_\_\_

Twitter: \_\_\_\_\_

Snapchat: \_\_\_\_\_

Others?: \_\_\_\_\_