



Alliant International University, San Diego California

INFORMED CONSENT AGREEMENT

You are being asked to participate in a doctoral dissertation research study. Prior to providing your consent to be a volunteer and willing participant in the study, please read the following to be sure that you understand what your participation will involve.

Researcher

Lynette W. Lively Cookson, M.A.

Email: llively-cookson@alliant.edu

Dissertation Chair: Tara Shuman, Psy.D.

Contact Information

You may contact Alliant International University Institutional Review Board Office for general questions or concerns about rights of research participants at alliant-irb@alliant.edu. If you have questions regarding this specific research study, you may contact the Researcher, Lynette W. Lively Cookson, M.A., at llively-cookson@alliant.edu

Purpose

This study includes research conducted over online format. This involves completion of three instruments, a screener and demographics questionnaire by participants. Participants will be caregivers of foster children who are licensed as foster parents in the state of WA. Participants will be asked about their experience in their unique parenting role as a foster parent, as well as experiences of fatigue due to the stress that foster parenting may expose the participants to. The study is designed to further understand the relationship between support services provided by foster agencies the participants are affiliated with; and the quality of the participant's experience in their roles as licensed foster parents with the children that are currently placed in their care.

Duration

Responding to this survey (three instruments) is expected to take between 20 and 30 minutes to complete.

Confidentiality

The data collected in this study will be used for research and educational purposes only. Your responses will remain anonymous and will be kept confidential. Your individual responses will be combined with those of other participants. No personal information can be identified. Questions regarding child abuse or neglect perpetrated against a child who is currently under the age of 18 will not be asked in this study. If you have concerns regarding potential or suspected

abuse of a child you know, please reach out to the appropriate reporting agencies or authorities in your region or a mandated reporter with whom you work closely with.

Risks and Benefits

The risks involved in participating in this research study are minimal. One potential risk is that you may be asked some questions regarding your experience of the organizations you work with or the children in your care that may stir up uncomfortable feelings. There are no direct benefits to you of your participation. To recognize your participation and time given, you will be provided the option to enter into a raffle drawing to win one of two \$25 Visa gift cards. The investigators hope to learn more about how foster parents like yourself experience the foster care system and ways that the system can be improved to better support the foster parents, foster children, and other stakeholders influenced by the system.

PARTICIPANT BILL OF RIGHTS

As a participant in a research study, you have certain rights and responsibilities. To aid in your understanding prior to offering your consent, you have the following specific rights:

1. To be informed of the nature and purpose of the research in which you are participating.
2. To be given an explanation of all procedures to be followed
3. To be given a description of any risks or discomforts that can be reasonably expected to occur.
4. To be given an explanation of any benefits that may be expected to come to the subject as a result of this research.
5. To be given an opportunity and be encouraged to ask any questions concerning the study or the procedures involved in this research.
6. To be made aware that consent to participate in the research may be withdrawn and that participation may be discontinued at any time without penalty.
7. To request a summary of the aggregate results of the study once the study has been completed.
8. To be given a copy of the Consent Form if requested.
9. To not be subjected to any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, coercion, or any influence in reaching your decision to consent or to not consent to participate in the research.

Alternative Resources

If you need further support, please utilize these services that are available in your area:

- SAMHA'S Mental Health Service Locator (<http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>) for information and referrals in your local area
- Foster Parent Allies for Washington State (<https://www.fpaws.org/>) or 1-800-391-CARE (2273), for 24/7 support and updated information on fostering in your area
- 1-800-273-TALK (8255) USA National Crisis Hotline
- 1-866-4CRISIS (866-427-4747) for King County Crisis Hotline (can redirect per county)

In order to ensure that you have access to phone numbers and emails of contact persons responsible for the oversight, supervision or completion of this study, please either download or print this consent form before proceeding with this study.

By clicking “I have read the consent and agree to participate in this study,” You are indicating that you have read the above-noted information, are at least 18 years of age, and agree to participate in the study until you decide otherwise. You also acknowledge reading the Participant Bill of Rights. By continuing, you are not giving up any of your legal rights. If you have any further questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Researcher.

Thank you! - Lynette W. Lively Cookson, M.A., Doctoral Candidate

☐ I attest to having read the above and voluntarily consent to participate in this study

Approved by Alliant International University Institutional Review Board