#### When to Use this Template

*DCU’s Research Ethics Committee (REC) follows the same guidelines as those used by the Health Services Executive (HSE) for research involving children or young people.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Age*** | ***Health & Social Care Research*** | ***All Other Research*** |
| *Child, under 16 years* | *Parental consent required* | *Parental consent required* |
| *Young person,  16 but under 18 years* | *Parental consent NOT required* | *Parental consent required* |
| *Adult,  18 years and over* | *Parental consent NOT required* | *Parental consent NOT required* |

*Where parental consent is not required, the participating young person or adult should sign an appropriate Informed Consent Form.*

*Where parental consent is required, as indicated by the red text in the above table, the parent should sign an appropriate Informed Consent Form, and the child or young person should sign an appropriate Informed Assent Form.*

*This template is an Informed Assent Form that is designed for use specifically where children or young people are being invited to participate in an ANONYMOUS ONLINE SURVEY.*

*An Informed Assent Form for an Anonymous Online Survey for children or young people should generally contain the information detailed on the following page. Items in the list of check boxes should be written from the perspective of the researcher or the participant, as appropriate, e.g. “I understand the information provided, etc.” The text in italics is there for your guidance and should not be included in the form. Note that the language used in the checklist can and should be adapted to suit the age and literacy of the participants. The example text given is suitable for older teenagers; simpler language would be needed for young children.*

#### How to Use the Anonymous Online Assent Form

*When the Anonymous Online Assent Form has been approved by DCU’s REC, it should be incorporated as the first page in the online survey. Its use requires a three-step process:-*

1. *The researcher must get the informed consent of a Parent or Guardian, allowing the child or young person to participate in the research.*
2. *The researcher (or his/her deputy) must open the survey and must tick the box in the first line of the online assent form, thereby confirming that the Parent or Guardian has given his / her consent for the child or young person to participate.*
3. *When the researcher has completed step 2, the participating child or young person should be given access to the remainder of the online assent form. The survey must only become accessible when the participant has ticked “Yes” for all the boxes.*

#### *When you have finished using this template to design the Anonymous Online Assent Form, this page, and the text in italics on the following page, should be deleted from the completed document, before you submit the draft form to the REC for approval.*

#### Research Study Title

#### *Also identify the school/centre involved, the principal investigator and any other investigators.*

***Confirmation of particular requirements as highlighted in the Participant Information Sheet\****

*(if applicable). Getting the participants to acknowledge the requirements is mandatory (see sample table, below). Participants should not be able to access the survey until they have agreed to all the items and indicated their assent to participate.*

#### *Example*

#### Researcher – Confirmation of Consent of the Parent / Guardian of this Participant

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I confirm that the Parent / Guardian of this participant has given his / her consent for the child or young person to participate in this survey | □ Yes | □ No |

#### Participant – Please complete the following, by clicking Yes / No for each question

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I have read the Participant Information Sheet (or had it read to me) | □ Yes | □ No |
| I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study | □ Yes | □ No |
| I have received satisfactory answers to all my questions | □ Yes | □ No |
| I understand the information provided | □ Yes | □ No |
| I understand the arrangements made to protect confidentiality of data, including that confidentiality of data is subject to legal limitations | □ Yes | □ No |
| I understand [insert other relevant item(s), if applicable] *This line may need to be repeated if there are multiple special requirements\** | □ Yes | □ No |
| I confirm [insert other relevant item(s), if applicable] *This line may need to be repeated if there are multiple special requirements\** | □ Yes | □ No |
| I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I may withdraw from the survey at any time by closing the page without clicking on “Submit” | □ Yes | □ No |
| I give my assent to participate in this survey | □ Yes | □ No |

***\* Items marked with an asterisk may not be required in your survey***