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**Encompass**

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SWK 340: Social Work Research Methods OER Collection

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## **SWK 340: Exercise 3. Ethical Considerations in the Research Study Proposal**

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## **SWK 340 Exercise 3: Ethical Considerations for your Research Study Proposal**

**Purpose:** This assignment is an opportunity to consider the safety of participants in your research proposal. You will incorporate what you learned about research ethics from completing the CITI Human Subjects Protection Certification modules.

**Instructions:** Write the ethical considerations paragraph(s) that will go into your methods section of the research proposal. Your response should clearly and succinctly describe these aspects of your study:

1. Describe how you plan to ensure confidentiality of participant identifying information and security of data you collect.
2. Describe how you will obtain informed consent from participants, including parent/guardian consent and assent for youth.
3. Explain steps you will take to ensure physical and emotional safety of participants (i.e., provision of counseling, able to stop at any time).
4. List the risks and benefits of the study and describe why you believe the benefits outweigh the risks. (i.e., will subjects gain anything from participating in your study)

Submit your paper through the assignment link on Blackboard by the due date in the Course Schedule. Be sure to add a reference page if needed (you may not have any references for this section!). Include a title page following [APA format for student papers](#).

Example paragraphs:

### **Ethical Considerations**

In order to ensure protection of human subjects in this research study, we will seek approval for the study from the ECU Institutional Review Board (IRB) and the IRB representing the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Each participant will be invited to participate in the study through the family's case worker. The case worker will explain the purpose of the study, including risks and benefits of participation, how long the study will last, and how their personal data will be protected. Since children will be responding to survey questions, as well as their parents, we will request signed consent and assent from all family members who agree to participate in the research study. We will obtain assent from anyone under 18 and obtain consent for the child's participation from their parent/guardian. In addition,

the parent/guardian will need to provide consent for their own participation in the study. To protect participant data, each record will be kept confidential by storing identifying information (i.e., name, date of birth) separately from the response data. Each survey will be assigned a number and that number will be used to separately store the identifiers from the responses. Only the lead researcher will have access to the information that might link the participants to the identifying data.

Risks of participation in the study are that the participants might feel distressed remembering difficult times in their life. The research survey asks about specific experiences an individual has had in the past with violence in the home. Since this might lead the participant to recall difficult times which are distressing to them, access to free counseling and support will be made available as needed. Participants will be allowed to stop the survey at any time without any penalty if responding to questions becomes too uncomfortable or distressing. The benefits of survey participation could include feeling good about helping to increase understanding of family violence and to aid in finding the best types of treatment for families. Another benefit is that participants will earn \$10 Safeway or Kroger gift cards for each survey completed.