



Institutional Review Board

1204 Marie Mount Hall • 7814 Regents Drive • College Park, MD 20742 • 301-405-4212 • irb@umd.edu

Example of a Waiver of Parental Consent Request for College Students Under 18

WHEN TO USE: If your study involves college students and you wish to include those who may be under 18 years old without requiring them to obtain parental consent, you will need to request a waiver of parental consent. To do this, include the following information in Initial Application Part 2, Section 7 (Consent Process).

7. Consent Process

I request a waiver of parental consent for college students who are under 18 years old for this research study.

(i) **The research involves no more than minimal risk to the subjects:** The procedures involve no more risk than they would encounter in their daily lives as college students, as the activities are limited to [complete as appropriate for your study].

(ii) **The research could not practicably be carried out without the requested waiver or alteration:** The research could not practically be carried out with students under 18 years old without the waiver as contacting the parents and obtaining parental consent can be challenging and difficult, and unnecessarily places a burden on the student and parent who are often living in separate locations.

(iii) **If the research involves using identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens, the research could not practicably be carried out without using such information or biospecimens in an identifiable format:** [State why collecting identifiers is needed for this study, for example to link responses across data collection sessions] OR [State that no identifiable information is collected].

(iv) **The waiver or alteration will not adversely affect the rights and welfare of the subjects:** We will still seek assent from the subjects themselves. This waiver ensures that college students under 18 are treated the same as older college students and do not have the additional burden of obtaining parental consent. With approval of this waiver, students who are not yet 18 years old will have the same opportunity to participate in this study as their older peers who are experiencing the same life events.

(v) **Whenever appropriate, the subjects or legally authorized representatives will be provided with additional pertinent information after participation.** [If there is deception involved] Subjects will receive a debriefing statement that details the purpose of the research OR [If there is no deception involved] Not applicable, as all information is available through the consent/assent process.]