

APPENDIX A

INFORMED CONSENT FOR PARTICIPANTS OF INVESTIGATIVE PROJECTS

Title of Project: A Survey of Food and Nutrition-related Beliefs, Attitudes, Practices, and Perceived Needs of Food Stamp Clients in Virginia

Principle Investigator: Shona C. Stack

I. THE PURPOSE OF THIS RESEARCH/PROJECT

You are invited to participate in a study about food and nutrition-related beliefs, attitudes, practices, and needs of food stamp clients in Virginia. The purpose of this study is to gain insight on the opinions and needs of food stamp clients in order to develop better nutrition education programs.

II. PROCEDURES/METHODS

The procedures to be used in this research are as follows:

1. Each participant will be involved in a group discussion, answering food and nutrition-related questions, lasting no more than two hours.
2. At the end of the discussion, each participant will complete a brief anonymous survey of similar content.
3. The focus group discussion will be a one-time commitment.

There are minimal risks associated with this study. Some people may experience discomfort when reporting information of a personal nature, however, all comments are voluntary.

III. BENEFITS OF THIS PROJECT

As an incentive to participate in this project, each participant will receive coupons from a local grocery store. Transportation and child care will be provided if needed. An additional benefit is the opportunity to voice opinions on food and nutrition issues, possibly affecting future educational programs.

You may receive a summary of findings when completed, if so desired. Please leave a self-addressed envelope with your EFNEP technician to be forwarded to Shona Stack.

IV. EXTENT OF ANONYMITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The identity of each participant will be kept entirely confidential. At no time will the researcher release the identity of any participant to anyone other than individuals working on the project without your written consent. The focus group sessions will be tape-recorded, but participants will be addressed by first name only during the discussion. A subject number will identify you during analyses and any written reports of the research.

V. COMPENSATION

There is no payment or course credit. Each participant will receive coupons from a local grocery store as incentive to participate.

VI. FREEDOM TO WITHDRAW

You are free to withdraw from this study at any time without penalty.

VII. APPROVAL OF RESEARCH

This research project has been approved, as required, by the Institutional Review Board for projects involving human subjects at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and the Department of Human Nutrition and Foods.

VIII. SUBJECT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

I know of no reason I cannot participate in this study and I agree to participate. I have the following responsibilities:

1. Participate in a group discussion lasting no more than 2 hours, answering food and nutrition-related questions.
2. At the end of the discussion, complete a brief anonymous survey of similar content.

The focus group discussion will be a one-time commitment and all comments are voluntary.

IX. SUBJECT'S PERMISSION

I have read and understand the informed consent and conditions of this project. I have had all my questions answered. I hereby acknowledge the above and give my voluntary consent for participation in this project.

If I participate, I may withdraw at any time without penalty.

Signature

Date

Should I have any questions about this research or its conduct, I will contact:

Shona C. Stack, Investigator

phone: (540) 552-4242

Ruby H. Cox, Faculty Advisor

phone: (540) 231-7156

Ernest R. Stout, Chair, IRB
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