



Date: _____

Reference Number: _____

Informed Consent

This consent form, a copy of which will be left with you for your records and reference, is only part of the process of informed consent. It is intended give you the basic idea of what the research is about and what your participation will involve. If you would like more detail about something mentioned here, or information not included here, you should feel free to ask. Please take the time to read this carefully and to understand any accompanying information.

Purpose of the research

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) is empowered by *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* (ACYA) to conduct investigations, research, and produce reports to improve the effectiveness, responsiveness, and accessibility of services for children and youth and young adults in Manitoba in a special report pursuant to section 31(1) of the ACYA. The Manitoba Advocate has launched an investigation and special report on the death of Eishia Hudson. Part of this special report, we are asking youth with direct or indirect experience/involvement with police to participate in a Talking Circle that will help inform the findings and recommendations in the special report.

Description of risk

While there are minimal risks to you, the information in the focus group does involve sensitive topics, such as police interactions, and it may be upsetting as you reflect on some of your personal experiences. At any time during the interview, if you become upset, you can step out of the discussion and the Knowledge Keeper or support staff will assist you in any way possible and/or refer you to an appropriate, free counseling service.

Study procedures

Participation in this focus group involves participating in a one-time focus group discussion. The discussion will last about two hours of your time and will be audio-recorded and transcribed. Your participation is voluntary and you do not have to participate in this discussion if you do not want to. Similarly, you do not need to answer any questions you do not want to. You can decide to take a break or end participation at any time and you can choose whether the information obtained at that point can be used or not.

Description of recording devices

To ensure we are accurate in our understanding of your comments and so that we can refer back to it as we write the special report, the interview will be digitally audio recorded and transcribed verbatim.

Description of confidentiality and anonymity

The information you provide may be shared within MACY for the purposes of the investigation and special report. The Advocate, at her discretion, may publish information gathered during the interview, like quotes, throughout the investigation and subsequent publication of the special report. Any information that could identify you personally will be kept strictly confidential. The special report will not disclose your name. The Advocate may disclose the general role a person holds (such as “youth interviewed”), if the Advocate deems it necessary. The digitally audio recorded interviews will be transcribed into a password-protected computer file. Service providers and other organizations will never have access to your specific responses. Only the MACY team will have access to this information. Hard copy transcripts and interview recordings will be destroyed after completion of the research project.

Participant remuneration

Participants in the focus group will receive an honorarium of \$40 in the form of a gift card.

Feedback to participants

You are welcome to receive information about the study results. If you would like to receive information about the study findings, please indicate below:

I would like to receive information about the study findings: _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please provide your email address: _____
and a copy of the special report will be emailed to you upon publication of the special report.

Pseudonym

1. This special report will use a pseudonym (“fake name”) to protect your identity. Do you have a pseudonym in mind for us to consider? _____

Signature

Your signature on this consent form indicates that you have understood the information contained above regarding participation in the research project. In no way does your signing this consent form waive your legal rights, nor release the researchers, or any staff employed at MACY from their legal and professional responsibilities to strictly maintain your privacy rights. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time prior to the publication of the special report and/or may refrain from answering any questions you prefer not to without prejudice or consequence. Your continued participation should be as informed as your initial consent, so you should feel free to ask for clarification or new information throughout your participation.

I am signing this consent form of my own free will and without any coercion or duress whatsoever. I further acknowledge that I am of age 16 years or over at the time I am signing this consent form. In the event that I have any concerns regarding my participation during the course of the interview, I am free to withdraw my consent prior to publication, and information in the transcripts will be destroyed.

Participant’s Name (print) _____ Date _____

Participant’s Signature _____ Date _____

Participant's Email _____ Participant's Phone Number _____

Participant's Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

Researcher and/or Delegate's Signature _____ Date _____

If under 18, consent of legal guardian is required.

Signature & relationship to minor: _____

Agency name (if applicable): _____

Legal guardian's name (print): _____

Date: _____