

Informed Consent Form**Focus Group****Strengthening Marriages and the Well Being of Children: Post Adoption Marriage Education**

Dear Research Participant,

You are invited to participate in a research study entitled, “**Strengthening Marriages and the Well Being of Children: Post Adoption Marriage Education**”. The purpose of this study is to develop and implement a marriage enhancement curriculum for parents who have adopted a child. The potential benefits of your participation are several. First, you will have an opportunity to reflect on your experiences as a partner and a parent. This reflection may help you to be a more effective partner and parent by raising your awareness of areas of strength, and areas for potential growth. Secondly, many people report that they experience a sense of relief when given the opportunity to tell their stories. Lastly, your participation will benefit other individuals and couples who have adopted, or will adopt, a child in the future.

As with any research, there are potential risks to participating in this study. You might experience slight discomfort if you talk about issues related to your relationship or parenting. If this continues for an extended period, please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Gary Anderson, using the contact information listed below.

Participation in this research project requires a two-hour time commitment. During this time, you will be asked to fill out a brief demographic questionnaire about yourself and your family and to attend a focus group with other adoptive parents. The focus group will ask questions about your experiences as a partner while parenting a child who has been adopted. Your participation is voluntary. You may decide to stop participating at any time without penalty. It is your right to refuse to answer any particular question that you do not want to answer in either the questionnaire or the focus group.

These focus groups will be audiotaped. We will take important steps to ensure your confidentiality. These protective procedures include locked storage in the Research Office in Baker Hall, for all identifying information, such as your name, signature, and contact information. Focus group audiotapes will be stored in a different office, in Baker Hall, during and after the tapes are transcribed. In this second office, we will keep the audiotapes in a locked cabinet until they are transcribed. On the transcripts, participants will be identified only with a code. Once the transcripts are complete, the audiotapes will be destroyed by demagnetizing, within 10 weeks after the focus groups are completed. Once the audiotapes are destroyed, your name and voice will not be connected to the data in any way. Information and comments from the tapes may be used in professional publications and/or presentations, but your name, or any other unique information that someone could use to identify you, will never be reported or released.. The only individuals that will have access to the audiotapes, transcription files, signed informed consent forms, questionnaires, and contact information, are four MSU social work faculty researchers, Project Coordinators, and trained doctoral Research Assistants. Your privacy will be protected to the fullest extent of the law.

If you have questions about this research project, do not hesitate to contact one of the following people in the School of Social Work at Michigan State University:

- Gary Anderson, Ph.D., MSW, Principal Investigator, School of Social Work, 254 Baker Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824; Ph: (517) 355-7515; E-mail: ander664@msu.edu
- Rosemary Jackson, MSW, Project Coordinator, School of Social Work 254 Baker Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824; Ph:(517) 432-9441; E-mail: jacks807@msu.edu

Consent

I agree voluntarily to participate in this research.

Signature

Date

If there are concerns about your rights or the treatment of research participants involved in this project, contact Peter Vasilenko, Ph.D., Director of Human Research Protections, (517) 355-2180, fax (517) 432-4503, e-mail irb@msu.edu, mail 202 Olds Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1047.