

## **INFORMED CONSENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Prior to participating in ALL research studies at Sam Houston State University, you will be asked to read and sign an informed consent document. Registering for the Psychology Research Participation (PeRP) system is NOT a substitute for informed consent as you will be asked to sign an informed consent document prior to each study that you participate in. Informed consent explains the nature, demands, benefits and any risk of each research project. By signing an informed consent form you agree knowingly to assume any risks involved in participating in the various research studies. Although each of the studies that you are able to sign up for via the PeRP system has been approved by the SHSU Institutional Review Board, there is some possibility that you may be subject to some unforeseen risks.

The purposes of an informed consent form are to provide you (as a prospective research study participant) information that may affect your decision as to whether or not to participate in a research study and to record the consent of those who agree to be involved in the study.

Your participation is voluntary. You may choose not to participate or to withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at ANY TIME without penalty. In signing an informed consent form, you are not waiving any legal claims, rights, or remedies. A copy of the consent form will be offered to you. Your signature indicates that you consent to participate in the study

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

All information obtained in each of the studies is strictly confidential unless disclosure is required by law. The results of most research studies may be used in reports, presentations, and publications, but the researchers will not identify you. Although this information will be included on the informed consent document, you may specifically ask the researcher how confidentiality of your records will be maintained.

### **WITHDRAWAL PRIVILEGE**

You may withdraw from any study at any time. You may decide to not participate in any study at the beginning of the study or even after the study has begun. Your decision will not affect your relationship with Sam Houston State University or otherwise cause a loss of benefits which you might otherwise be entitled. Additionally, withdrawal from any study will not affect your grade.

### **VOLUNTARY CONSENT**

Any questions you have concerning the research study or your participation in the study, before or after your consent, will be answered by the individual researcher conducting the study.

If you have questions about your rights as a subject/participant in this research, or if you feel that you have been placed at risk, you can contact the Chair of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board, through the SHSU Research & Special Programs Office, at 936-294-3621.