



Criteria for Research Considered by the IRB at the Basic Level

The Basic Level refers to research described as "Exempt Level" in Federal guidelines. Basic level review is conducted by one member of the IRB in consultation with at least one other member.

Proposals which involve the following research procedures are considered at the Basic Level.

1. Normal Educational Practices

It is a long-established fact that a reader will be distracted by the readable content of a page when looking at its layout. The point of using Lorem Ipsum is that it has a more-or-less normal distribution of letters, as opposed to using 'Content here, content here', making it look like readable English.

2. Educational Testing

Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement) is considered at the Basic Level, provided that the information is recorded so that it cannot be linked, directly or indirectly, to individual participants.

3. Survey/Interview Procedures

Research involving surveys or interviews with legally competent non-institutionalized adults is considered at the Basic Level, except where any of the following conditions exists:

- the participant's responses, if they become known outside the research, could reasonably place the participant at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the participant's reputation, financial standing, or employability, or
- the research deals with sensitive aspects of the participant's behavior, such as illegal conduct, drug use, sexual behavior, or the use of alcohol, or
- surveys or interviews were conducted with minors.

According to Federal guidelines, when the respondents are elected or appointed public officials or candidates for public office, all research involving survey or interview procedures is automatically considered at the Basic Level, without exception.



4. Observation Without Intervention

Research involving observation (including observation by participants) of public behavior without intervention or significant interaction with the observer is considered at the Basic Level, except where any of the following conditions exist:

- the observations recorded about the individual, if they become known outside the research, could reasonably place the participant at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the participant's reputation, financial standing, or employability, or
- the research deals with sensitive aspects of the participant's behavior such as illegal conduct, drug use, sexual behavior, or use of alcohol, or
- the research deals with the observation of children.

5. Use of Archival Data

Research involving the collection or study of archival data, documents, records, and pathological or diagnostic specimens is considered at the Basic Level, provided that the sources of data are publicly available or the information is recorded so that it cannot be linked, directly or indirectly, to individual participants.

6. Evaluation of Federal Research and Programs

Research and demonstration projects are considered at the Basic Level which are conducted or approved by the Department of Health and Human Services, and which are designed to study or evaluate programs under the Social Security Act or other public benefit or service program.

7. Consumer Acceptance Studies

Consumer acceptance studies and taste and food quality evaluation studies are considered at the Basic Level, provided that, to the researcher's best knowledge:

- wholesome foods without uncommon additives are consumed, or
- food additives are at or below the safe levels designated by the Food and Drug Administration or the Food Safety and Inspection Service.