Bryant University

Responsibilities of the Investigator

Before Undertaking the Project

1. Carefully review this information, including the other document **Seven Questions to Consider** and the **Form for Obtaining Informed Consent**. Members of the IRB are available for consultation if there are any questions.
2. For studies involving more than minimal risk to the participants, a signed consent form should be obtained from each participant in the study. The forms should be retained in the files of the principal investigator. Consent forms should be stored separately from the data in order to protect the subjects' confidentiality.
3. If seeking IRB approval, complete the appropriate forms carefully, thoroughly, and accurately.
4. If subjects are under the care of a physician or psychologist for a condition that might interact with the research procedures, the investigator needs to obtain written consent from the health care provider for the inclusion of that participant.

After the Experiment Begins

1. If a student is performing the research, the supervising instructor should actively oversee the research, monitor its progress, and maintain written records of that supervision. For example, printed guidelines should be provided as handouts to a class.
2. If IRB approval was obtained, strictly adhere to the protocol that was approved. However, if, after the research has begun, the procedures are to be modified in a way that substantially changes the risks to the participants, a new proposal should be submitted to the IRB for approval prior to instituting these changes.
3. If extra credit in an academic course is being offered to students for serving as research subjects, alternative opportunities for obtaining extra credit must be available to students who choose not to be subjects. (Federal law prohibits any research in which being a subject is the only opportunity for earning extra credit.)
4. If, during the experiment, the investigator has any evidence that participants have in any way been harmed as a direct result of their participation, or that participation was a significant factor in producing the harm, the investigator should undertake all of the following steps:
    a. Make a serious effort to remedy the harm immediately.

   b. Immediately notify the IRB regardless of whether the IRB reviewed the protocol or whether the investigator succeeded in remedying the harm. The Chair of the IRB may subsequently solicit assistance from appropriate human services personnel.
   c. Immediately terminate data collection from the participants in question and postpone all activities associated with the research project until the IRB and other concerned Bryant University personnel are satisfied that appropriate modifications of the protocol can and have been made.
   d. Continue to monitor the participants until everyone concerned has determined that the problem has been resolved.
5. The principal investigator should keep all research records for a minimum of three years. However, if the research involved minors or adolescents, it is recommended that records be maintained for at least five years.