Informed Consent Form

This study is conducted by a team of researchers from the USC Medical School Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, and the Department of Mathematics. The purpose of the study is to develop a survey for young adults. The survey focuses on helping the researchers understand how negative and positive experiences in childhood and adolescence have impacted on current adjustment. If you agree to participate in this study you will be asked to complete the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute Psychological Resources and Psychological Trauma Scale on the Internet on your own time, outside of your University 101 class. It should take less than an hour to complete the survey via the Internet. In the survey you'll be asked to respond to 42 questions about being treated well and/or badly as you grew up. Some of the questions are very personal. If you agree to participate in this study, you'll be asked to fill out the survey and, at the end, a short information questionnaire.

There is a very slight possibility that in answering the survey some of the items might remind you of unpleasant experiences from the past and cause some temporary upset. In the event that some emotional distress should occur, the USC Counseling Center is available to serve you. The USC Counseling Center has specially trained clinicians available to answer questions if you become upset during the time you are completing the survey. Ms. Tricia Phaup (803) 777-7619 would be of assistance to you if become upset taking the survey.

While there is no direct benefit to you for being part of this study, your participation in terms of responding to the survey helps create new knowledge for clinicians working with young adults, particularly college students.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you agree to participate, you may still refuse to answer any questions, or to stop taking the survey at any time. If you decide not to participate or to drop out of the study, this will not affect your status as a USC student in any way. Your participation will be completely anonymous and you will not be asked to put your name on the survey. You will be assigned a code number in order to log onto the survey via the Internet, but you will be the only one who knows your code number.

All completed surveys will be kept in a locked file in a designated locked storage area. The Food and Drug Administration or the Department of Health and Human Services may inspect the research materials.

Again, all your responses will remain confidential and private according to South Carolina state law and the University of South Carolina IRB Guidelines.

You will be given a copy of this consent form to keep. During the study, if you have any questions you can call Dr. Holmes (803) 434-4250 or Dr. McNulty (803) 777-8437.

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Student Signature            Witness

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Date                        Date