

TEEN HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY PHASE ONE FOCUS GROUPS: YOUTH ASSENT FORM

Background/ Purpose: You are one of 10-20 young people we are asking to take part in an online focus group. The purpose of the focus group is for us to learn about the good and bad things that young people experiencing and being exposed to when they are online.

Procedures: We will ask you to visit the focus group web site 2-3 times per day over three days. At the website, you'll see questions that the moderator has posted for you to answer. Once you provide your comments, you'll be able to see and respond to other people's comments too.

It is very important that you take part in the focus group in a place that is private. You should feel comfortable to answer the questions honestly.

We might ask you questions like: "Tell me about when you first went online..."; "What do your friends mostly do on the Internet?"; "Have you heard about young people having bad experiences on the Internet?" We also will ask about relationships, both friend and romantic, that you have with other people online. We are developing a survey for young people and we also would like your opinion about the look and feel of the survey website.

Risks and Discomforts: It is possible that a question might make you feel uncomfortable, or even upset. If this happens, you can (a) skip the question, (b) leave the discussion board and not answer the question, (c) take a rest before answering, or (d) stop being in the focus group completely.

Benefits: This focus group will help us understand the types of experiences – good and bad – young people are having online. There is no direct benefit to you for taking part in the focus group.

Compensation: You will receive \$50 for taking part in the focus group.

Privacy and confidentiality: We will keep your answers after the focus group ends so that we can look at them later. Only key research personnel will have access to the transcript. Your name will not be used in any reports or articles we publish. We will not tell your parents what you say during the focus group.

All computer files will be protected with a password. This will protect your privacy.

It is possible that your privacy will be broken. We will do everything we can to prevent this. You can use a different name that is not your real name on the focus group bulletin board if you want

to. We will ask you and other young people in the focus group not to share any of the discussion from the focus group with people outside of the group. We cannot guarantee that what you say will not be shared by other young people in the focus group.

Your rights: Taking part in the focus group is your choice. You have the right to stop taking part in the focus group at any time.

Questions and contact numbers: If you don't understand something in this form, or if you want more information about the focus group, please email the study director, Dr. Michele Ybarra at: Michele@is4k.com.

If you have questions about your rights as a participant in the focus group, you can email the IRB CONTACT at the Chesapeake IRB.

If you have read this form and know what the research study is about, please print out the contact information now. You may also find the contact information in the email that we sent to you with the survey link.

Now, please select one of the options below. By selecting "Yes", you agree to take part in the focus group. If you choose not to take part in the focus group, we have just a few more questions for you.

- 1 Yes, I agree to take part in the focus group
- 2 No, I do not agree to take part in the focus group

For those who do not assent to participate:

We thank you for your time and respect your decision not to take part in the focus group. To help us design future focus group, please tell us why you did not agree to take part.