CONSENT FOR RESEARCH
The Pennsylvania State University

Title of Project: Children, Intimate Relationships, Conflictual Life Events, & Stress (CIRCLES) Study

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We are asking you to be in a research study. This form gives you information about the research.

Whether or not you take part is up to you. You can choose not to take part. You can agree to take part and later change your mind. Your decision will not be held against you.

Please ask questions about anything that is unclear to you and take your time to make your choice.

1. Why is this research study being done?

This research is being done to understand four aspects of family conflict and aggression. First, we want to know how frequently different forms of aggression occur in families. Second, we want to know how aggressive conflicts unfold. Third, we want to understand the situations in which family conflict and aggression occur. Fourth, we want to understand the experiences and views of people involved in aggressive and nonaggressive family conflicts.

We are asking you to be in this research because we think that you can help us better understand how family conflict and aggression occur. Approximately 200 men and 200 women will complete this study.

2. What will happen in this research study?

You will be asked to complete three online surveys and six telephone interviews. The telephone interviews will be scheduled approximately 4-6 weeks apart. You may choose not to answer any questions.

On the surveys, you will be asked questions about yourself, your feelings and behaviors in your relationships, your child's behaviors, and stressful experiences you have had in your life. You will also be asked to indicate what emotion is being expressed in a series of photographs of children's and adults' faces.

During the telephone interviews, you will be asked to use a calendar to mark significant days, routine events, and days during which you were not in contact with your family during the past four weeks. You will then be asked to report on days in which aggression occurred in your family. For each incident of aggression, you will be asked to describe the acts of aggression that occurred and the context in which aggression occurred. For example, you may be asked to describe the topic of the conflict, if you or your partner drank alcohol, and emotions experienced by you and/or your child. You will be asked similar questions about conflicts that occurred in your family but did not include aggression.

3. What are the risks and possible discomforts from being in this research study?

Some of the questions in this study are personal and may be upsetting. These questions may cause you to experience negative feelings about yourself, your relationship, and/or your child. You may

choose not to answer any questions. Although we cannot provide you with advice, we will speak with you at the end of the telephone interview to address any concerns you may have and to ensure that you are not experiencing strong negative emotions. You will be provided a list of resources that you may contact if you would like to discuss your issues or concerns further.

There is a risk of loss of confidentiality if your information or your identity is obtained by someone other than the investigators, but precautions will be taken to prevent this from happening. The confidentiality of your electronic data created by you or by the researchers will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used. Absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

4. What are the possible benefits from being in this research study?

4a. What are the possible benefits to you?

You will get to contribute to research on family conflict, aggression, and stress. This will include healthy exploration of your thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

4b. What are the possible benefits to others?

Your participation will increase our understanding of family conflict, aggression, and stress. This will help us to improve programs for parents who want to decrease the negative impacts of stress and improve their family relationships.

5. What other options are available instead of being in this research study?

You may decide not to participate in this research.

6. How long will you take part in this research study?

If you agree to take part, it will take you about nine months to complete this research study. During this time, we will ask you to complete two surveys (1.5-2 hours total), then six telephone interviews (about 60 to 90 minutes each), which will be scheduled about 4-6 weeks apart. After completing all six interviews, you will be asked to complete a final survey (45 minutes-1 hour). If you need to repeatedly reschedule interviews, your total time to complete the study may be longer.

7. How will your privacy and confidentiality be protected if you decide to take part in this research study?

Efforts will be made to limit the use and sharing of your personal research information to people who have a need to review this information.

- Your identity will not be associated with your survey or interview answers unless you choose to provide us with identifying information.
- Your answers to the surveys and your answers during each of the interviews will be associated using three non-identifying security questions. Your answers will be linked to the answers your partner provides using three similar non-identifying security questions.
- When we call you to complete the interviews, we will not keep the telephone number dialed once the interview begins.
    - NOTE: Due to restrictions placed on on-campus research activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we may ask you to call our study staff. In such a case, we will make sure you know how to use *67 to hide your number prior to the interview.
- Your identity may become known while participating in this study if you provide us with identifying information, such as your name. If this happens, and you report that your child experienced or witnessed severe physical aggression, we may be required to make a report to the appropriate authorities.
- All data will be marked with a code number instead of your name.

- All data will be stored on a password-protected computer in a locked office at The Pennsylvania State University.
- Only authorized research staff will have access to the data.

This research is covered by a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health. The researchers with this Certificate may not disclose or use information that may identify you in any civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other action, suit, or proceeding, or be used as evidence, for example, if there is a court subpoena, unless you have consented for this use. That is, a Certificate of Confidentiality does not prevent you from voluntarily releasing information about yourself or your involvement in this research. The Certificate of Confidentiality will not be used to prevent disclosure as required by federal, state, or local law of suspected child abuse or neglect, elder abuse, or potentially lethal harm to yourself or others. As described above, such information will only be disclosed if you provide your identity to the researchers.

In the event of any publication or presentation resulting from the research, no personally identifiable information will be shared.

We will do our best to keep your participation in this research study confidential to the extent permitted by law. However, it is possible that other people may find out about your participation in this research study. For example, the following people/groups may check and copy records about this research.

- The Office for Human Research Protections in the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
- The research study sponsor, the National Institutes of Health
- The Institutional Review Board (a committee that reviews and approves research studies) and
- The Office for Research Protections.

Some of these records could contain information that personally identifies you. Reasonable efforts will be made to keep the personal information in your research record private. However, absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

8. Will you be paid to take part in this research study?

You will receive $25 for completing each of the three surveys (two initial surveys and a follow-up survey), $50 for completing each of the six interviews, and a $25 dollar bonus for completing all nine portions of the study, for a total of $400. If you do not complete the study for any reason, you will be paid for the surveys and interviews you have completed.

9. Who is paying for this research study?

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, part of the National Institutes of Health, is paying for this research. The study investigators have no conflicts of interest with the sponsor.

10. What are your rights if you take part in this research study?

Taking part in this research study is voluntary.

- You do not have to be in this research.
- If you choose to be in this research, you have the right to stop at any time.
- If you decide not to be in this research or if you decide to stop at a later date, there will be no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled.

11. If you have questions or concerns about this research study, whom should you call?

Please call the head of the research study (principal investigator), Dr. Amy Marshall, at (814) 863-1752 if you:

- Have questions, complaints, or concerns about the research.
- Believe you may have been harmed by being in the research study.

You may also contact the Office for Research Protections at (814) 865-1775, ORProtections@psu.edu if you:

- Have questions regarding your rights as a person in a research study.
- Have concerns or general questions about the research.
- You may also call this number if you cannot reach the research team or wish to offer input or to talk to someone else about any concerns related to the research.

INFORMED CONSENT TO TAKE PART IN RESEARCH

Your participation implies your voluntary consent to participate in the research. Please keep or print a copy of this form for your records.