**Informed Consent Requirements for Minors**

Documented informed consent must be obtained from children age 13 to 18. The parent(s) or guardian(s) must also sign the informed consent document. In research that involves greater than minimal risk to subjects, the signature of both parents may be required.

Assent is required of children age 12 years and younger, as well as parental permission. Assent is a child’s affirmative agreement to participate in research. An assent script must be provided with the IRB application.

Assent may also be appropriate for those that may have limited capacity. In these circumstances participants MAY need to be evaluated for comprehension and guardian (or similar) consent may also be required.

Sample Assent Script:

(Project Title)

**Procedure for obtaining assent from children**

1. **Hi,** [child's name].

2. **My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I am trying to learn more about** [Description of project in appropriate language].

3. **I would like you to** [Description of what you would like the child to do; include video/audio taping if appropriate. Try to avoid using words like "help" and "cooperate" which might suggest coercion].

4. **Do you want to do this?** [If the child does not indicate affirmative agreement, you cannot continue with this child].

5. **Do you have any questions before we start?** [Clarify if necessary].

6. **If you want to stop at any time just tell me.**

A witness statement can be added if the extra protection provided by it is desired.