Elements of Assent

Assent from individual subjects indicating a willingness to be involved in the project should be obtained immediately prior to the subjects’ participation in the project, in addition to consent from a parent/representative, whenever the subject is a minor (under 18) or someone who otherwise lacks the capacity to give informed consent. The procedure used to obtain assent should be briefly described in the body of the IRB application form.

The assent process will usually be oral, not written. To obtain assent, provide an explanation of the following aspects of the project to the subject, in language appropriate to the subjects’ capabilities:

1. An explanation of the purpose(s) of the research.
2. The nature and expected duration of the subject’s participation
3. Reassurance that participation is voluntary, and that refusal to participate, or discontinuation of participation is possible at any time, without penalty or loss of benefits.

FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE REVIEW PROCEDURE, CONTACT THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH COMPLIANCE IN 301 LOWDEN HALL OR CALL (815) 753-8588