

Western Carolina University  
Institutional Review Board

Audio/Video/Photographic Recording of Human Subjects

Overview

Recording the voice and/or image of research participants is a valid and useful data collection method, however creating this type of record requires unique handling and storage, particularly if the content may be considered sensitive. The investigators need to clearly specify the steps taken to maintain the confidentiality of this identifiable information.

As with all research procedures, the dignity of human subjects should be respected. Therefore, only what is necessary for the purpose of the study should be recorded. Research subjects must be informed prospectively that such a recording will occur, and be provided with information about the storage, confidentiality, and future use of the resulting tape.

Below is an outline of information that must be included in the IRB application form to address issues related to **IRB Review Form**, the investigator should clearly specify the

uses of the recording. The investigator should consider the following elements in the

the use of recording is directly related to achieving the objectives of the project  
of recording

that will be utilized;

- Specific identifiers that will be recorded (e.g. partial/full facial features, subjects name);
- A clear indication of when the recordings will be destroyed or that the recordings will be kept indefinitely;

, should clearly state the investigator's consent procedures. A sample audio/videotape consent forms is available for your reference.

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## **Storage and Future Use Considerations**

If you expect to store your recordings in ways that will enable others to use the recordings, or if you expect to use the recordings in additional research projects that are not directly related to the objectives of the study under which they were initially created, this must be explicitly stated in the protocol and in the informed consent form.

If you anticipate that other researchers may request to use the videotapes outside your research project, then