

## **Appendix Biii: Consent Form Children**

### **Information Sheet: Mapping the needs of children and youth who witness or experience domestic violence in the household study**

#### **CHILDREN**

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#### Introduction

We are conducting a project to help us better understand the needs of children who experience or witness domestic violence as a child. This is part of a project that is focusing on housing needs of families who are living with domestic violence. We are asking individuals who have witnessed violence in the home when they were children, to provide us with their opinions about the kinds of services that are important to help keep children safe and help them feel supported. We are not asking about personal experiences.

Before you agree to be part of this study, we would like you to read this information sheet to understand what the study is all about and to understand how the information gathered will be kept secure and confidential.

#### What is the reason for this research?

The goal of this project is to determine what services and resources would support children and youth who have witnessed or experienced violence or abuse in the household.

#### What will the research study look like?

There are up to four sessions that you may participate in. In the first session, brainstorming, we will ask participants to share ideas about possible services that might help children who experience or witness violence in the home to feel safe and supported. Participants can choose to be part of the first session either in groups through a Zoom or asynchronously through an online program. In the second and third sessions, sorting and rating, we will ask participants to group the services to create categories with similar themes and then to rate them in terms of how important they are to children. These activities will take place asynchronously through an online program or in-person. We will share all findings in the final session, mapping, and get feedback on the findings. This session will be a group activity done through Zoom. The group sessions will have around 8-10 participants and will last approximately 45 minutes for brainstorming and mapping. The sorting activity will take 30 to 45 minutes and rating will take 20 to 30 minutes.

### Who can take part?

Any individual who can verbalize that they had experienced violence in the home as children. Participants must be aged between 18 and 30, can read, speak, and write in English. Engagement or lack of engagement in this study will not impact any services you receive.

### Are there any risks or benefits to being part of this research study?

Individuals participating in our research project may experience psychological stress or distress when recalling experiences of violence. If this does occur while present for a session, you can speak to or contact one of the group facilitators who will provide support and direct you to appropriate staff who are likewise trained or resources that can provide support.

### How will my information be kept private?

The research team is committed to respecting your privacy. No information that reveals your identity will be collected or published without your consent unless required by law. We will use ID codes to link the demographic questionnaire with rating information. To protect your privacy, data will be password-protected and securely stored. In addition, access to records and data will be limited to authorized persons and transmission of the data will be secure. The data and the signed consent form will be securely stored for 5 years and then destroyed. All participants will be reminded to keep group discussions confidential. Given the group style of this activity, there is a risk that someone will share what you have said in our session. We will continue to remind everyone to keep what is said confidential but cannot 100% guarantee.

### Who will have access to the information collected?

Study data will only be accessible by the members of the Research Team and Unity Health Toronto Research Ethics Board. To monitor the study, the ethics board may look at study records. All records will be kept in storage for 5 years and then destroyed.

If you have any questions regarding the study confidentiality, please contact any member of the research team. Contact information for the research team will be at the end of this information sheet.

### How can I learn about the results of this study?

As soon as the study is finished, you can learn about the results in a few ways: there will be information sheets available at the organization you work at; a link will be available on the SAH website ([link](#)); or you can request any information by using the contact information at the bottom of the page.

### What if I don't want to be involved anymore?

Participation in this research study is voluntary, and you can participate in as many or as few sessions as you'd like. You can refuse to participate in this study, or leave this study at any time. You can change your mind at any time during the study and withdraw. No reason will need to be given for your withdrawal. You also can decline any questions during these sessions. While you will be invited to participate in several steps of the project, you can participate in as many or as few of these as you would like.

### Will I get paid to do this study?

Each participant will also receive a gift card (amounts below) for taking part in each phase of the study and will receive it for any contribution of your time, should you decide to complete the entire session or not.

Brainstorming Group: \$10 gift card

Brainstorming Online: \$5 gift card

Sorting: \$30 gift card

Rating: \$10 gift card

Mapping: \$20 gift card

## Funding

This project was funded by the Leong Centre Studentship Award from the University of Toronto.

Thank you for taking a look at this information sheet. If you would like to be involved in the study, please call the study coordinator between [hours to be determined]:

For further information, contact:

Principal Investigator: Pat O'Campo at [patricia.ocampo@unityhealth.to](mailto:patricia.ocampo@unityhealth.to)

Study Coordinator: Melissa Perri at [mel.perri@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:mel.perri@mail.utoronto.ca)  
OR at 4160864-6060 Ext. 77358

If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Unity Health Toronto Research Ethics Board Office at 416-864-6060 ext. 42557 during business hours (9:00am to 5:00pm).

Unity Health Toronto is a health network that includes Providence Healthcare, St. Joseph's Health Centre, and St. Michael's Hospital.

Research Ethics Board Contact: Dr. David Mazer, Chair of Providence St. Joseph's and St. Michael's Healthcare Research Ethics Board at 416-864-6060, extension 2557