



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA

## Title of research study: Social Media and Youth Study

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### How to Return this Consent Form:

You need to electronically sign this form to be in this study. Once you submit the form with your electronic signature, this will mean that you agree to participate in the research that is described below.

### Key Information:

The following is a short summary of this study to help you decide if you want to be a part of this study. More detailed information is listed later on in this form.

### Why am I being invited to take part in a research study?

You are being invited take part in a research study because you are between the ages of 13-17 years old, have an active Instagram account, and you participated in at least 2 direct message conversations with someone that made you or someone else feel uncomfortable or unsafe. You also said that you are willing to share your Instagram data for the purpose of research. 'Active' means that you have had an Instagram account for at least 3 months and have exchanged direct messages with at least 15 people. To be eligible, you must currently reside in the United States and speak fluent English. An uncomfortable or unsafe interaction may include:

- **Nudity/porn:** Photos or videos of a nude or partially nude person.
- **Sexual messages or Solicitations:** Someone sent me a sexual message ("Sexting"). Someone asked me to send them a sexual message, revealing, or naked photo of myself.
- **Harassment:** Messages that contain credible threats, targets to degrade or shame someone, contains personal information to blackmail or harass someone, threats to post nude photos of someone.
- **Hate speech:** Messages that encourage violence or attack anyone based on who they are. Specific threats of physical harm, theft or vandalism
- **Violence/Threat of violence:** Messages or photos or videos of extreme violence, or encourage violence or attacks anyone based on their religious, ethnic or sexual background
- **Sale or promotion of illegal activities:** Messages contain promoting the use, sell, or distributing illegal material such as drugs.
- **Self-injury:** Messages encouraging or promoting self-injury, which includes suicide, cutting and eating disorders.
- **Other:** Other situations that could potentially lead to emotional or physical harm.

### **Why is this research being done?**

As teens engage with others on social media, sometimes they have experiences that make them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. We want to better understand the types of experiences that teens have on social media (specifically on Instagram), so that we can design tools that help teens feel safer and empowered online.

### **How long will the research last and what will my teen need to do?**

If you sign this consent form, you will be enrolled in the study. You will be asked to download your Instagram data, take a web-based survey, upload your Instagram data, and take another survey based on your Instagram experiences. The entire process should take from 3 hours to 3 days to complete, depending on how long it takes Instagram to send your data file. You will receive email reminders to complete each step of the study, if you need to leave the study and come back later. You may also be contacted after you complete this study, to be in another study with your parent, if you want to.

More detailed information about the study can be found under **“What happens if I say yes, I want to be in this research?”**

### **Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me?**

The risks of participation are minimal and do not exceed risks found in daily life activities. . However, the online survey includes questions about some sensitive topics related to social media use, such as cyberbullying, unwanted sexual experiences, mental health including depression and self-harm, and risky behaviors. Some people may become anxious or upset when answering questions about their personal experiences. If you believe you need counseling, talk to your parent, or contact 1-877-SAMHSA7 (1-877-726-4727) or refer to the resources provided in the “Help Resources” section available at all times during the study.

### **Will being in this study help me in any way?**

Being in this study may increase your awareness of your social media activities and help you have honest conversations about the experiences that you are having online.

### **What happens if I do not want to be in this study?**

Participation in research is completely voluntary. You can decide to participate, or not to participate.

**Detailed Information:** The following is more detailed information about this study in addition to the information listed above.

### **What should I know about a research study?**

- Someone should explain this research study to you and your parent.
- Whether or not you decide to take part in this study is up to you.
- You can agree to take part and later change your mind if you decide not to take part.
- Your decision will not be held against you.
- You can ask all the questions you want before you decide.

### Who can I talk to?

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or think the research has hurt you, your parent can talk to the research team by contacting Dr. Pamela Wisniewski at [pamwis@ucf.edu](mailto:pamwis@ucf.edu).

This research has been reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board ("IRB"). Your parent may talk to them at 407-823-2901 or [irb@ucf.edu](mailto:irb@ucf.edu) if:

- Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team.
- You cannot reach the research team.
- You want to talk to someone besides the research team.
- You have questions about your rights as a research subject.
- You want to get information or provide input about this research.

### How many people will be studied?

We expect up to 250 teens or young adults to participate in this research study.

### What happens if I say yes, I want to be in this research?

- After agreeing to participate in this study, you will be given instructions on how to download your Instagram data file. This will take no more than 5 minutes to complete. However, it may take Instagram up to 48 hours to create your data file. You will later be asked to upload this file to our system. This file includes your Instagram posts, direct messages, and photos. Posts made by your friends are not included in this file.
- Next, you will be asked to complete a web-based survey about your social media usage and personal experiences. This includes questions about social media use, cyberbullying, unwanted sexual experiences, mental health including depression and self-harm, and risky behaviors. This survey will take approximately 30-60 minutes to complete.
- You will receive an email from Instagram to download their data file within 48 hours of your request. Once downloaded, you will be asked to upload this file to our secure system. This process should take approximately 5-30 minutes to complete depending on the file size. **Please do not upload any Instagram file that may contain any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a minor (persons less than 18 years old). Federal law requires us to report child pornography that we find in the data to the proper authorities.**
- Once the Instagram data has been uploaded, you will be asked to identify direct messages that made you feel uncomfortable or unsafe in the past. We will also ask you to answer questions to help us better understand these experiences. This survey should take approximately 30-90 minutes to complete.
- In case you close the browser, you will receive an email with a link to continue and will receive reminder emails every 48 hours to continue. You can unsubscribe from these emails at any time by clicking on the unsubscribe link in the emails. Unsubscribing from emails doesn't affect participation in the study.
- We ask that you thoughtfully consider your own privacy and discuss whether or not you would feel more comfortable if you were allowed to answer the survey questions without

your parent's direct supervision. Our intent is to allow you to be open and honest in your responses and not feel worried that you may get in trouble by participating in this research study.

- Immediately after completing the direct message survey, you and your parent may receive an offer to participate in phase 2 of this study. This second phase will ask you and your parent to complete separate online surveys, and then participate in an interview with the researchers, along with a discussion with your parent, based on the information from the Instagram survey in phase 1. If you receive this offer, you may choose to participate into the study, in which case the researchers will contact you. If you choose not to participate, you may opt out, in which case you will not be contacted.

### **What happens if I say yes, but I change my mind later?**

You or your parent can choose to leave the study at any time, and it will not be held against you. If you decide to leave the study before you finish, you will not receive any compensation. If you would like to completely withdraw from the study and not have the data collected used for the research, please ask your parent to email Dr. Pamela Wisniewski at [pamwis@ucf.edu](mailto:pamwis@ucf.edu) to make this request. If you partially complete the study but do not withdraw, we will use the data you have already shared.

### **What happens to the information collected for the research?**

The information collected for this study will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. We take your privacy seriously and will treat your data with the utmost care. The Instagram data collected for this study may include personally identifiable information (e.g., names, phone numbers, addresses, etc.). However, no results will be published from this study that would allow you to be personally identified by the information disclosed. We will follow best practices to ensure that all data is encrypted and stored securely. Efforts will be made to limit the use and disclosure of your personal information included in this research study to people who have a need to review this information. However, we **cannot** promise complete secrecy. Organizations that may inspect and copy your information include the IRB and other representatives of this organization to ensure the ethical compliance of this research procedure is being upheld. As the research sponsor, the National Science Foundation may also inspect the data.

### **If data collected from this study strongly indicates that you are at serious risk of physical injury, sexual abuse, mental injury, or physical neglect we, as mandated reporters, are required to report these types of imminent risks to the proper authorities.**

However, the data will not be screened directly for such risks and will only be reported in the case that an imminent risk is found. The content of the Instagram data file may include information shared with you by other users. This data will be treated as part of your own data and will be under the same requirements for mandated reporting as your own data.

All data collected must be retained for a minimum of five years per Florida statute. De-identified data must be retained for a minimum of ten years per the National Science Foundation's requirement for data retention for funded research. **These data retention laws apply even in the case that you or your parent choose to withdraw from the study.**

The data collected for this study will not be shared publicly but may be shared with a limited group of researchers who are working closely with the co-investigators. Those researchers will be required to comply with all assurances and regulations set forth by UCF's IRB. Portions of the social media data may also be shared with researchers requesting third-party access. The researchers will remove Instagram usernames and participants' contact information (including participants' names and email addresses) prior to sharing the data. To gain third-party access, researchers must show an established record of relevant, published research to validate why they should have access to this data, receive IRB approval from their home institutions, and sign a binding data confidentiality agreement with the primary investigator. Under no circumstances will third-parties be allowed to re-distribute any data collected from this study.

If you want your social media data to be used only for this research study, please tell your parent to email Dr. Pamela Wisniewski at [pamwis@ucf.edu](mailto:pamwis@ucf.edu), within 2 weeks after you complete the study.

### **What else do I need to know?**

If you complete this research study, we will pay you a \$50 Amazon gift card for your time spent completing this study. Gift cards will be sent to the email address you enter after agreeing to this assent form. You need to complete the study and provide your Instagram data in order to be eligible to receive the gift card. If you exit the study after completing the survey but do not provide your Instagram data, you will not receive the gift card. Gift cards will be sent within 60 days of completing the study once the data has been checked by our researchers. Additionally, you may be contacted to be in another study with your parent, based on the results of this study.

This research is covered by a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health. This means that the researchers cannot release or use information, documents, or samples that may identify you in any action or suit unless you and your parents say it is okay. They also cannot provide them as evidence unless you have agreed.

There are some important things that you need to know. The Certificate DOES NOT stop reporting that federal, state or local laws require. Some examples are laws that require reporting of child or elder abuse, child pornography, some communicable diseases, and threats to harm yourself or others. The Certificate CANNOT BE USED to stop a sponsoring United States federal or state government agency from checking records or evaluating programs. The Certificate also DOES NOT prevent your information from being used for other research if allowed by federal regulations.

Researchers may release information about you when your parent says it is okay. For example, your parent may give them permission to release information to insurers, medical providers or any other persons not connected with the research. The Certificate of Confidentiality does not stop you from willingly releasing information about your involvement in this study. It also does not prevent you from having access to your own information.

This research is being funded by the National Science Foundation. Any opinion, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. National Science Foundation.

After signing this form, choose "Print" from your browser menu or use the "Ctrl+P" keyboard shortcut to print this document. You may also save as a PDF for your records

Thank you for being part of our research study!

**Signature Block**

Your signature documents your assent to take part in this research.

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Printed name of teen

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Date

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By checking the boxes below, you (teen) are providing your assent to voluntarily participate in this research study with your parent.

**Email Address**

(Please provide the email address where you would like reminder notifications and the gift card to be sent. This needs to be teen's email address.)

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Please print this form for your records.