



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

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### **How to Return this Consent Form:**

Your (as the parent or legal guardian of a minor) electronic signature is required to enroll in this study. Once you submit the form with your electronic signature, this will indicate your agreement to for your teen to participate in the research as described in more detail below. If you would like, you can download or print this consent form for your records.

### **Key Information:**

The following is a short summary of this study to help you decide whether or not to allow your teen to be a part of this study. More detailed information is listed later on in this form.

### **Why is my teen being invited to take part in a research study?**

Your teen is being invited take part in a research study because he or she is between the ages of 13-17 years old, has an active Instagram account, has received at least 2 direct message conversations with someone that made your teen or someone else feel uncomfortable or unsafe, and is willing to share their Instagram data for the purpose of research. Active is defined as having an Instagram account for at least 3 months and exchanging direct messages with at least 15 people. To be eligible, your teen 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 encounter situations that make them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. We want to better understand these types of experiences teens encounter on social media (specifically on Instagram), so that we can design interventions 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, your teen will be enrolled in the study. They will be asked to download their Instagram data, take a web-based survey, upload their Instagram data, and take a survey based on their Instagram experiences. The entire process should take from 1 hour to 3 days to complete, depending on how long it takes Instagram to prepare their data file for download. Your teen will receive email reminders to complete each step of this process should they need to leave the study and come back later. You may also be contacted after your teen completes this study, to participate in a follow-up study alongside your teen.

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

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

The risks of participation are minimal and do not exceed the risks associated with activities found in daily life. 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 behaviors, well-being or views. If you believe your teen need counseling, please 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 my teen in any way?**

Possible benefits include that participating in this study may increase your teen’s awareness of their social media activities and start open conversations about experiences they are having online.

## **What happens if I do not want my teen to be in this research?**

Participation in research is completely voluntary. You can decide to have your teen 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 could explain this research study to you and your teen.
- Whether or not you allow your teen to take part is up to you.
- You can choose not to allow your teen to take part.
- You can agree to allow your teen to take part and later change your mind.

- Your decision will not be held against you or your teen.
- 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 your teen, talk to the research team by contacting Dr. Pamela Wisniewski at pamwis@ucf.edu.

This research has been reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board (“IRB”). You may talk to them at 407-823-2901 or 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 teen’s 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 my teen to be in this research?

- After agreeing to participate in this study, your teen will be given instructions on how to download their Instagram data file. This process will take no more than 5 minutes to complete. However, it may take Instagram up to 48 hours to fulfill the request. Your teen will later be asked to upload this file to our system. This file includes their Instagram posts, direct messages, and photos. Posts made by their friends are not included in this file.
- Next, they will be asked to complete a web-based survey about their social media usage and personal experiences which 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.
- Your teen will receive an email from Instagram to download their data file within 48 hours of their initial request. Once downloaded, your teen 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, your teen will be asked to identify direct messages that made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe in the past. We will ask your teen to answer questions to help us better understand these experiences. This survey should take approximately 30-90 minutes to complete.
- In case your teen closes the browser he/she will receive an email with a link to continue and will receive reminder emails every 48 hours to continue. Participants can

unsubscribe from emails at any time by hitting unsubscribe link in the emails. Unsubscribing from emails doesn't affect participation in the study.

- We ask that you thoughtfully consider your teen's privacy and discuss whether or not your teen would feel more comfortable if they were allowed to answer the survey questions without your direct supervision. Our intent is to allow teens to be open and honest in their responses and not feel worried that they may get in trouble by participating in this research study.
- Immediately after completing the direct message survey, you and your teen may receive an offer to participate in phase 2 of this study, depending on your eligibility criteria. This second phase will ask you and your teen to complete separate online surveys, and then participate in an on-site interview with the researchers, along with collaborative discussion exercises with your teen, based on the information from the direct message survey. If you receive this offer, you may choose to opt into the study, in which case the researchers will contact you in order to begin phase 2. 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 teen can choose to leave the study at any time, and it will not be held against you or your teen. If you or your teen decides to leave the study prior to completion, your teen will not receive any compensation. If you or your teen would like to completely withdraw from the study and not have the data collected used for the purpose of this research, please email Dr. Pamela Wisniewski at [pamwis@ucf.edu](mailto:pamwis@ucf.edu) to make this request within 48 hours of the study completion. If your teen partially completes the study but does not withdraw, we will use the data they 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 teen's privacy seriously and will treat their 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 your teen 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 teen's 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 the participant's 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 your teen is 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 your teen by other users. This data will be treated as part of your teen's data and will be under the same requirements for mandated reporting as your teen's 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 teen 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 teen's information to only be used for this research study, please request that by emailing Dr. Pamela Wisniewski at [pamwis@ucf.edu](mailto:pamwis@ucf.edu) within 2 weeks after your teen completed the study.

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

If your teen completes this research study, we will pay them a \$50 Amazon gift card for their time and effort in completing this study. Gift cards will be sent via email to the address you specify after agreeing to this consent form. Your teen needs to complete the study and provide her/his Instagram data in order to be eligible to receive the gift card. If she/he exits the study after completing the survey but does not provide her/his Instagram data, she/he will not receive the gift card. Gift cards will be sent within 60 days of completing the study once the data has been verified based on the pre-screening eligibility requirements of this study. Additionally, you may be contacted to participate in a follow-up study involving both you and your teen, depending on your eligibility.

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 say it is okay. They also cannot provide them as evidence unless you have agreed. This protection includes federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other proceedings. An example would be a court subpoena.

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.

## Permission to Take Part in a Human Research Study

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Researchers may release information about you when you say it is okay. For example, you 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 research. 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. Thank you for allowing your teen to be part of our research study!

***This study was approved on 7/8/2020, and expires on 4/8/2021. Do not sign this consent if after 4/8/2021.***

**Signature Block for Children**

Your signature documents your permission for the named child to take part in this research.

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Printed name of child

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Signature of parent Date

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Printed name of parent

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Signature of parent Date

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Printed name of parent

If signature of second parent not obtained, indicate why: (select one):

- Second parent is deceased
- Second parent is unknown
- Second parent is incompetent
- Second parent is not reasonably available
- Only one parent has legal responsibility for the care and custody of the child

**Email Address**

Please provide your email address (parent's email address not the teen's email address) for our record:

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Please print this form for your records.