Informed Consent

Life after Foster Care: Resistance Strategies of Formerly Institutionalized Youth

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

My name is Rita Naranjo, and I am a current graduate student pursuing my Master’s of Arts in Sociological practice at California State University, San Marcos. I am interested in studying how adults who were in foster care achieve success and well-being. I am asking you to participate in this study, because you are someone who has experienced institutionalized out-of-home care for at least one year and you are over 18 years of age.

PURPOSE OF STUDY

The goals for this research include: 1) to share the life experiences of survival and success within a community whose members do not see themselves as victims but, rather, as aware and thoughtful people that strive to live life in a good way; 2) to support and enhance community activities that will help former foster youth to continue to build themselves, their families and communities; and 3) expand the understanding of the specific ways that former foster youth overcome and succeed.

DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES

If you agree to be in this study, the following will happen:

I will schedule an interview with you that will best fit with your schedule. The interview will take place wherever you choose and it will last for about one hour. The interview will be tape-recorded.

During the interview you will be asked open-ended questions about your experiences related to being in foster care or other out-of-home institutions and how they have affected your life. I will ask questions about family history or factors that caused you to be removed from their families care into an out-of-home placement, what types of placements you experienced, and how long you were in care. I will ask you how these experiences impacted your life and how you dealt with these specific situations. I will ask you to discuss how well prepared you were to be on your own. In addition, we will discuss the specific activities that have helped you to survive on a day-to-day basis and to accomplish your personal goals.
After I am done writing up your interview, I will contact you and ask you if you want to review the transcript. If you find that something is incorrect or if you want it changed or removed from transcript I will gladly do so. I will wait two weeks to hear from you before I go ahead and use the interview.

After I write up a final report, I will ask you if you would like a written copy of what I have written.

RISKS AND SAFEGUARDS

Risk 1: You may feel uncomfortable when discussing personal life experiences and issues with being in foster care.

Risk 1 Safeguard: I will remind you that you can stop the interview at any time or skip any questions that you find too uncomfortable to continue.

Risk 2: You may have limited time because of work and personal obligations

Risk 2 Safeguard: The time, day, and location of the interview will be set up by you. You will also know up front that the interview will take about an hour. You will also be reminded before and throughout the interview that you can stop or delay the interview at any time. Although you will have to take a bit of time out of your day to do the interview, I will try to make it as convenient as possible for you.

Risk 3: You may be worried that you will be named in the thesis that comes out of this project.

Risk 3 Safeguard: Your name will be kept completely confidential. In all research reports, a pseudonym, or fake name, will be used to refer to you. The interview transcripts will be kept in locked file cabinets in the researcher's home. The audio files will be erased after the study is completed.

BENEFITS

You will receive a financial benefit of $20 in cash upon the successful completion of your interview. In addition, you may also receive comfort knowing that your perspectives regarding how you have specifically dealt with your life struggles may inform future research on how to better support improved outcomes of former foster youth. It is possible that the results of this study could be used to influence what people understand about how youth are active participants in determining the direction of their lives.

CONFIDENTIALLY

The digital copy of your interview will be uploaded and stored as a password-protected file on my personal computer. I am the only person who will listen to the tape recording. After the interview is written, I will not have your name attached to it in any way. The
transcriptions will also be stored as a password protected file on the researcher’s computer.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may skip any questions that you do not want to answer. You can also end the interview at any time.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about this study, please contact Rita Naranjo by telephone (760) 583-9402 or by e-mail (naran008@cougars.csusm.edu). You can also contact Professor Richelle Swan by telephone (760) 750-4633 or by e-mail (rswan@csusm.edu).

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact our Institutional Review Board at (760) 750-4029. The IRB is a committee that reviews research studies to make sure that they are safe and that the rights of the participant are protected, which may include auditing of the research study and data.

AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE

By arranging an interview session with the researcher, you are saying that you voluntarily agree to participate in this study. (Remember, you can always withdraw from the study at any time.)

☐ (Please Check) I agree to be audio recorded during the interview.

*Thank you for your consideration!*

**Participant Consent:**

Rita Naranjo has explained the study and answered my questions. Based on the foregoing, I give my consent to participate in the study.

__________________________________________   _____________
Participant’s Signature                                                            Date

__________________________________________   _____________
Print Name                                                                                  Initial

__________________________________________   _____________
Witness/Researcher Signature                                            Date

__________________________________________
Print Name
Interview Questions: Although I will be conducting open-ended interview questions that will build upon the previous response of the participants, the following will guide the interview.

1. What is your first name, your age or age range, and your ethnic or racial identity?

2. Can you please describe your family history or factors that caused you to be removed from your family and into an out-of-home placement?

3. What types of placements did you experience, how many placements, and how long were you in care?

4. Can you give three example of how these experiences impacted your life and give examples of how you dealt with these specific situations?

5. Were you prepared to be on your own? If yes, in what ways? If no, what resources would have helped?

6. Can you describe specific factors related to decisions you have made that have impacted where you are today and how you came to those decisions?

7. Can you please give specific details regarding the strategies, actions, or steps that have helped you to survive on a day-to-day basis during your foster care experience and now? How have these actions helped you reach your goals or to accomplish your successes?

8. How would you describe culture and identity? And In what ways, if any, have culture and identity impact your life perspective? How has they shaped your life?

9. Are you involved in any way within the foster youth community currently? If you are, in what ways? If you are not, would you like to be and in what ways?

10. If you could advocate for resources or give advice for foster youth, what types of resources or advice do you think are important to provide?

11. Do you have any other thoughts or comments that you feel are important to share that I have not asked or discussed with you thus far?