

Audio/Video/Photographic Recording of Human Subjects

This policy applies to all human research studies that involve the audio, video, photographic, or any other recording (hereafter referred to as recording) of research subjects.

Recording the voice and/or image of an individual creates a type of record that requires unique handling and storage, particularly if the content may be considered sensitive. 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 recording will occur, and be provided with information about the storage, confidentiality, and future use of the resulting recorded media.

If a research protocol involves the recording of research subjects, the Principal Investigator must include the following elements for consideration, in his/her protocol and informed consent form for submission to and review by the HSC:

Elements for consideration:

- Type of recording that will be utilized;
- Specific identifiers that will be recorded, e.g., partial facial features, full facial features, subject's name;
- People who will have access to the recording(s);
- Mechanisms in place to protect the confidentiality of the person(s) being recorded;
- Clear indication of when the recording(s) will be destroyed or that recording(s) will be kept indefinitely;
- Use(s) of the recording(s), including educational or commercial purposes, analysis by the research team; or future unspecified use;
- Compensation, if any, to subjects for allowing themselves to be taped.

If the taping is an integral part of the research and not an optional procedure, a separate informed consent document is not required. However, documentation of the considerations listed above must be included within the body of the informed consent document for the overall study. It is important that this information be clearly stated, preferably preceded by a heading, so that it is clear to the subject that a recording will be made.

If the recording is not required as part of the research procedures, then the consent document must include a specific statement indicating that participation in the research study is not contingent upon agreeing to be recorded. A separate consent signature for permission to record will be necessary. This permission can be in the form of a consent addendum (see sample linked below), which includes the considerations listed above, or a separate signature line on the informed consent document labeled specifically for permission to tape. If a separate signature line is used, the considerations listed above must be included within the body of the informed consent document.

The consent addendum must be reviewed and approved by the HSC prior to implementation. This approval will be documented per UNA approval stamp guidelines.

Audio-Video-Photographic Recording – Sample Addendum for Consent Form