

## **Exempt Categories Eligible for Exempt Review**

All human subjects research projects must undergo review and approval by an IRB prior to initiation of research activities. Exempt reviews are conducted by at least one reviewer, and an exempt determination requires that the research must be minimal risk and fall into one or more of the exempt categories described below.

Minimal risk as defined by federal regulations is the probability and magnitude of harm or discomfort anticipated in the research are not greater in and of themselves than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during the performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or tests.

### **Exempt Categories:**

1. Educational research
2. Surveys, interviews, educational tests, public observations (that do not involve children)
3. Benign behavioral interventions
4. Analysis of previously collected identifiable info/specimens
5. Federal research/demonstration research
6. Taste and food evaluation research
7. Storage or maintenance of identifiable info/specimens
8. Secondary research use of identifiable info/specimens

### **Category 1 -**

Research, conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, that specifically involves normal educational practices that are not likely to adversely impact students' opportunity to learn required educational content or the assessment of educators who provide instruction. This includes most research on regular and special education instructional strategies, and research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods.

#### **Examples:**

- A study comparing the two different teaching methods in public high schools.
- An experiment evaluating the impact of a new technology tool in a college course.
- A study assessing the effects of class size on engagement in elementary schools.

### **Category 2 -**

1. The information obtained is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the human subjects cannot readily be ascertained, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects.
2. Any disclosure of the human subjects' responses outside the research would not reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability, educational advancement, or reputation; d t i d The

## Category 4 -

Secondary research for which consent is not required: Secondary research uses of identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens, if at least one of the following criteria is met:

1. The identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens are publicly available;
2. Information, which may include information about biospecimens, is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the human subjects cannot readily be ascertained directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects, the investigator does not contact the subjects, and the investigator will not re-identify subjects;
3. The research involves only information collection and analysis involving the investigator's use of identifiable health information where the information is de-identified.

or services under those programs. Such projects include, but are not limited to, internal studies by Federal employees, and studies under contracts or consulting arrangements, cooperative agreements, or grants. Exempt projects also include waivers of otherwise mandatory requirements using authorities such as sections 1115 and 1115A of the Social Security Act, as amended.

**Examples:**

- A federally funded research project evaluating the effectiveness of a new online system for applying for unemployment benefits.
- A demonstration project conducted by a federal agency to evaluate the effectiveness of a new public housing program.
- A federally funded research project investigating the effectiveness of different methods of payment for Medicare services.

**Category 6 -**