

Foster Children in Research:

Foster children are in the custody of The Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and are considered “wards of the state.” As such, only DHHS may provide consent for their participation in research. Specifically, since foster care is under the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Director of that division will review all requests for research projects. Foster parents *cannot* provide consent.

If you are considering a research project that specifically targets these children, you will need to contact the DCFS Director before you draft the protocol. There are special considerations that must be addressed and the DCFS staff is ready and willing to assist you in your efforts to protect this special population.

If your research targets a general population and you encounter a child in foster care who would qualify as a study participant, please fax the following to the DCFS Director’s office:

(1) A cover letter describing:

- (a) The nature of the project,
- (b) The Principal Investigator and Research Coordinator’s contact information (telephone numbers and email addresses) and
- (c) The timeframe you need for the consent process to be completed; and

(2) A copy of the consent form.

DCFS contact information is as follows:

Phone: (501) 682-8770

Fax: (501) 682-6968

700 Main Street

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