Participant Information Sheet

Researcher:
My name is Dr Bruce Smyth. I’m an Associate Professor at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Project Title: Shared Parenting after Separation Study: Survey of Family Law Professionals

General Outline of the Project:
- **Description and Methodology:** For the past three years, I have been studying the high-conflict shared-time post-divorce family. This study seeks to understand how families stuck in high-conflict make shared-time parenting time after separation ‘work’ (or not ‘work’) – emotionally, practically and financially. A natural extension of this study is to (a) examine family law system professionals’ attitudes to shared-time arrangements in different circumstances; (b) identify any lateral strategies that practitioners use when working with high-conflict clients or cases; and (c) explore what impact – if any – working with high-conflict cases has on family law system professionals’ wellbeing. The present study seeks to address these aims through a brief online survey of practitioners.
- **Participants:** Members of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, Family & Relationship Services of Australia, and the Family Law Section of the New Zealand Law Society have been invited to participate.
- **Use of Data and Feedback:** The survey data will be presented at conferences and published in journal articles. A summary of the research findings will be available at: http://rsss.anu.edu.au/schools-centres/socialresearch/research
- **Project Funding:** The study is funded by the Australian Research Council (Grant: FT110100757).

Participant Involvement:
- **Voluntary Participation & Withdrawal:** Participation in this project is voluntary. Participants may, without any negative consequences, decline to take part, refuse to answer any question, or withdraw from the research at any time during the survey.

- **What does participation in the research entail?** Participants will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey about strategies used when working with high conflict cases. Participants are also asked about the impact on their own wellbeing of working with high-conflict cases. Some basic demographic information will also be sought.

- **Location and Duration:** The survey can be completed on a computer, tablet, or smart phone when opportune. This one-off survey will take about 15-20 minutes to complete.

- **Risks:** Participants may experience some discomfort from their participation in the survey due to the sensitive nature of some of the personal wellbeing questions. A referral list of free, local services will be provided at the conclusion of the survey should any participants wish to seek help or talk to someone.

- **Benefits:** This research seeks to identify lateral or innovative strategies that practitioners have found useful when working with high-conflict cases. It also seeks to obtain a snapshot of the personal impacts on practitioners of working with high-conflict cases on a regular basis. This research seeks to help family relationship support and dispute resolution services, practitioners and separated families.
Confidentiality:
- No identifying information (e.g., names, positions, etc) will be collected (i.e., the survey is anonymous).
- All information will be treated in strict confidence as far as allowed by law.

Privacy Notice:
The ANU Privacy Policy can be found at: https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_010007 and contains information about how you can
- Have access or seek correction to your personal information,
- Complain about a breach of an Australian Privacy Principle (APP) by ANU and how ANU will handle the complaint.

Data Storage:
- Survey data will not contain names or addresses or other readily interpretable identifiers, but only unique serial numbers of participants. The survey data will be stored in a secure office at the Australian National University on a password-protected computer.
- Data will be stored for five years from publication, and then destroyed.

Queries, Concerns and Contact Information:
If you would like more information, please contact the Project Manager, Dr Bruce Smyth (ANU), during business hours on 1800 702 927 (toll free) or email Bruce.Smyth@anu.edu.au

Ethics Committee Clearance:
The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol: 2013/574). If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager
The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee
The Australian National University
Telephone: +61 2 6125 3427
Email: Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Smyth PhD
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ANU Centre for Social Research & Methods