

Research Subject Consent Form

Title: United Way Expungement Clinic Evaluation Project

Protocol Number: 2206009297

Sponsor: *United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey*

(UWGPSNJ)

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Research Subject Consent Form

Detailed Research Consent

You are being invited to take part in a research study. A person who takes part in a research study is called a research subject, or research participant.

1. What should I know about this research?

- Someone will explain this research to you.
- This form sums up that explanation.
- Taking part in this research is voluntary. Whether you take part is up to you.
- You can choose not to take part. There will be no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.
- You can agree to take part and later change your mind. There will be no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.
- If you don't understand, ask questions.
- Ask all the questions you want before you decide.

2. Why is this research being done?

The purpose of this research is to learn more about the short- and long-term outcomes of participating in these city-wide record clearing clinics, including outcomes related to employment, housing, criminal justice involvement, and overall wellbeing. To do that, we are asking participants to complete surveys, starting today, and then 3 more times in the years to come, just to check in and see how everyone's doing.

Up to 1000 people will take part in this research.

3. How long will I be in this research?

We expect that taking part in this research will last about 2 years, as we plan to ask participants to take a survey today, and then again in 6 months, in 1 year, and then one last time, 2 years after the clinic. Each time you complete the surveys, we estimate that it will take about 30 minutes.

4. What happens to me if I agree to take part in this research?

If you decide to take part in this research study, we will ask you to complete a survey today that asks about your experience at the clinic, your prior legal involvement, your goals related to record clearing, and how things are going for you in several areas, such as work, housing, and overall wellbeing. We will also ask you for certain numbers to identify your cases (e.g., docket numbers, police ID number), so that we can track the outcome of your record clearing efforts. We will ask you for your contact information so that we can follow up with you in the future to see how your case has gone and to see how you are doing over time. Specifically, we will ask you to complete another survey again in 6 months, in 1 year, and in 2 years from today.

5. Could being in this research hurt me?

We do not foresee any major risks to you as a result of participating in this research. As with any research study, there is always a potential risk for a confidentiality breach. However, we plan to

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take all reasonable precautions with the data we collect to protect participants' identities to better prevent that risk. Being in this research study will not affect your case in any way.

6. Will being in this research benefit me?

There are no benefits to you from your taking part in this research. Being in this research study will not affect your case in any way. We also cannot promise any benefits to others from you taking part in this research. However, possible benefits to others include a better understanding of the potential benefits of record clearing. This information could help create more community clinics, like these, to connect local residents with legal organizations to help them clear their records.

7. What other choices do I have besides taking part in this research?

Your alternative is to not take part in the research. This will not affect your case in any way.

8. What are my responsibilities if I take part in this research?

If you take part in this research, you will be asked to complete self-report surveys now, at today's Record Clearing Clinic visit, and then 3 more times in the future: in 6 months, in 1 year, and in 2 years. We will ask you for contact information so we can send you these surveys in the future. Each time you complete the surveys, we estimate that it will take about 30 minutes.

9. Will it cost me money to take part in this research?

There are no costs for participating in this research. You will be paid for your time completing surveys. You will receive \$25 for completing the survey today, and then \$25, \$30, and \$45 for completing each of the 3 other surveys—so \$125 for completing all surveys in this study.

10. What happens to the information collected for this research?

The information we collect from you will be shared with certain individuals and organizations that partner with us on the research or oversee this research, including:

- Our research partners at the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the University of Pennsylvania Law School
- The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Drexel University that reviewed this research study

We will share study findings with those involved with the clinics: the host organizations, the legal organizations staffing the clinics, and the funders of these clinics and the research, United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey. We also may publish or present results from this research. However, we will always keep your name and other identifying information confidential. We will only present findings as group data, something like "75% of people who attended the clinics had their records expunged within 1 year."

We will protect your information from disclosure to others to the extent required by law. We cannot promise complete secrecy.

11. Who can answer my questions about this research?

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or think this research has hurt you or made you sick, talk to the research team at the phone number listed above on the first page.

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This research is being overseen by an Institutional Review Board ("IRB"). An IRB is a group of people who perform independent review of research studies. You may talk to Drexel IRB at (267) 359-2471 or HRPP@drexel.edu if:

- You have questions, concerns, or complaints that are not being answered by the research team.
- You are not getting answers from the research team.
- You cannot reach the research team.
- You want to talk to someone else about the research.
- You have questions about your rights as a research subject.

12. Can I be removed from this research without my approval?

The person in charge of this research can remove you from this research without your approval. Possible reasons for removal include:

- It is in your best interest
- The research is canceled by the sponsor
- You do not complete the surveys

We will tell you about any new information that may affect your health, welfare, or choice to stay in this research.

13. What happens if I agree to be in this research, but I change my mind later?

Participation in this study is voluntary, and you can refuse to be in the study or stop at any time. If you stop being in the research, data that has already been collected may remain in the study database.

14. Will I be paid for taking part in this research?

For taking part in this research, you may be paid up to a total of \$125. Your compensation will be broken down as follows:

- \$25 for completing the survey today
- \$25 for completing the 6-month follow-up survey
- \$30 for completing the 1-year follow-up survey
- \$45 for competing the 2-year follow-up survey

Statement of Consent:

Your signature documents your consent to take part in this research.	
Printed Name and Signature of adult subject capable of consent	Date
Printed name and Signature of person obtaining consent	Date

APPROVED

Human Research Protection Protocol 2206009297A003 Approval Date: <u>10/13/2022</u>