

## Focus Group Consent

**(Directions:** Focus groups require an additional layer of privacy protection, because the researcher cannot guarantee that the participants of the group will not reveal each other's contributions to the group discussion once it has ended.

In addition to the usual warning about "loss of privacy is a potential risk," the "**Risks**" section of the protocol and the informed consent should contain the "*focus group consent*" wording below, adapted to the individual research project.)

Also, because the focus groups include discussion of personal opinions, extra measures will be taken to protect each participant's privacy. The researcher will begin the focus group by asking the participants to agree to the importance of keeping information discussed in the focus group confidential. She will then ask each participant to verbally agree to keep everything discussed in the room confidential, and will remind them at the end of the group not to discuss the material outside.

Only the researcher will have access to the data collected. Any tapes and transcripts of the focus group will be destroyed after one year or at the end of the study.