

Name: Research Ethics Board - Age Consent Guidelines

Policy Number: 9-1001

Origin: Research Ethics Board

Approved: June 5, 2009

Issuing Authority: Research Ethics Board

Responsibility: Research Ethics Board

Revision Date(s): n/a

Effective Date: June 5, 2009

Background

One of the most basic requirements under the TCPS is for potential participants in research to give their informed consent for participation. Informed consent imposes an obligation on the researcher to provide participants with details about their study (i.e., through the informed consent form etc.) but also implies that the individual participant must have the

definition of "children" and there are few if any guidelines for determining at what age an individual develops the capacity to consent to participate in research.

In law, the "age of consent" is defined by Federal Statute to be 16 years of age. However, in this context the age of consent refers to the ability to consent to participate in sexual activity and it is not at all clear that this is the standard of consent tt thiifhn2ed for