IRB – Waiver of Parental Consent

For studies including participants under the age of 19

Describe exactly what you wish to waive.

How do you wish to depart from the usual written informed consent procedure? (For example, you wish to waive the consent from parents of students less than 19 years of age).

Describe why the research involves no more than minimal risk to the subjects.

"Minimal risk" means that the likelihood or magnitude of the harm is not greater than what subject would ordinarily encounter in daily life or during routine clinical care.

Describe why the waiver or alteration will not adversely affect the rights and welfare of the subjects.

The IRB will assess whether the subjects' rights, such as the "right to privacy" would be violated if the consent were waived and the potential benefits to participation.

Describe why the research could not practically be carried out without the waiver or alteration of informed consent.

For example, research using deception/concealment, cases where obtaining informed consent would not be practical if the investigator will have no direct contact with subjects and will not know their identities. (Investigators convenience may not be a compelling argument here.)

Will subjects be provided with additional pertinent information after or during the research? If yes, describe how information will be provided to participants.

In social science research involving deception/concealment, subjects should be debriefed at the conclusion of the study. This may not be needed in other studies or, if data were collected without identifies, it may not be possible, since the identity of subjects would be known.