



Minors in Research Environments PI Proposal and Parental Consent Form (Complete all sections of the form)

Completed forms are due at the EH&S Office at least 2 weeks before work begins.

Instructions:

1. Principal Investigators (PIs) must work with minors to complete the first part of the form.
2. Upon the PI completing their portion of the form, they must sign it and return it to the minor.
3. Minors should present this form to their parent/guardian for review, together with the Policy on Minors in Research Environments ("Policy")
4. Parents/guardians must review this form and sign if they agree to its terms.
5. The completed form must be returned to Environmental Health and Safety at ehs@fau.edu for the minor to begin working with the PI.

Part I. Information about the minor and the research

Research Information

Principal Investigator (PI): Email:
Phone:
Department:
Supervisor (if different from PI): Email:
Work Location (if in the field, please specify where):

Minor's Information

Name (Last, First, MI):
Phone: Email:
Date of Birth:
Age:

Emergency Contact Information

Parent/Guardian Name(s):
Parent/Guardian Phone:
Parent/Guardian Email:
Emergency Contact Person's Name (other than Parent/Guardian):
Relationship to Minor:
Emergency Contact Phone:
Emergency Contact Email:

Description of Duties (host lab should complete this item)

Describe **in detail** what research activities the minor will be doing:

Check any of the following that are applicable to the research being conducted (**Please note the following work is prohibited for minors: unsupervised work; working in any environment designated BSL-3 or higher; working with any select agents, controlled substances, acute toxins, radiation, or explosives; entry into high-risk areas (BSL-3, areas with open sources of radiation, high-voltage equipment rooms); operation of power tools, motor vehicles, or watercraft**):

Part II. Parents/Guardians should review this form and sign the consent below.

Your child's research project may involve direct or indirect contact with one or more potential hazards including, without limitation, the ones listed below and in Appendix A attached. You can contact the Principal Investigator/Supervisor listed above or Environmental Health and Safety (ehs@fau.edu) to obtain further information on specific hazards that may be used or encountered in the research environment.

Animals – can bite, scratch, and transmit zoonotic diseases, such as rabies, toxoplasmosis, pox virus, cat bite fever, rat bite fever, and various parasitic infections, or release allergens.

Biological Materials – Pathogens (Bacteria, viruses, prions, parasites, fungi, etc.), materials (human, animal, or plant tissue, fluids, cells, cell lines, etc.), toxins (e.g., saxitoxin, microcystin), or recombinant/synthetic nucleic acids. These can cause infections, disease and/or hazardous outcomes because of exposure.

Chemicals – can be unstable, making them reactive and prone to explosion. Potential injuries include skin and eye burns, respiratory problems, allergic reactions, irritation of the skin, eyes, and mucous membranes, and illnesses.

Gas cylinders/compressed gases – gas cylinders with compressed gases can explode, causing injury from high-speed projectiles. Released gases can cause eye and skin irritations, respiratory problems, light-headedness, asphyxiation, and fainting.

Lasers – device that emits light (electromagnetic radiation) and can cause eye and skin damage.

Mechanical/electrical equipment and instrumentation – can cause electrocution, burns, cuts, scrapes and injuries from pinch points. High noise levels can cause hearing loss.

Occupational Health Program - Enrollment in one or more of the FAU Occupational Health programs may be required, depending on the specific hazards associated with the laboratory or work. Medical surveillance evaluations that may be required include, but are not limited to:

- Bloodborne pathogens (medical clearance and offering hepatitis B vaccine)
- Respiratory protection (medical clearance and fit testing)
- Animal contact (medical clearance and offering appropriate vaccines)
- Diving (medical clearance)

If medical surveillance is required for the work the minor will perform, they will be provided with additional forms and instructions to attend medical screening with their parent/guardian and the pediatrician of their choosing.

Radiation/irradiation – can cause skin and eye damage, cellular damage, and long-term health problems.

Boating/Diving – Several hazards are associated with equipment, environment, and marine life.

Additional potential hazards are listed below in **Appendix A**

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, EXPRESS
ASSUMPTION OF RISKS, AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD, and INITIALED the **Potential Hazard Information Sheet (Appendix A)** describing the potential risks and dangers associated with my child's research project. I fully understand the potential risks and hazards associated with exposure to hazardous materials or substances. I further acknowledge that my child may be exposed to risks and hazards that may not be set forth herein.

My minor child's access to Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees ("FAU") research environments and associated research activities may require participation in medical surveillance (described above). If medical surveillance is required for the work performed by my minor child, I understand that I will need to support obtaining medical clearance for my child by following the instructions provided to me and attending any required medical appointments with the pediatrician of my choice.

I HAVE REVIEWED the following with my minor child, and we agree to comply with all requirements:

- I have read and understand the Policy provided with this consent.
- I acknowledge that there may be situations in which the minor may be exposed to certain situations or substances which are not contemplated for or permitted by the Policy for various reasons, including but not limited to the physical environment of the lab.
- The minor will complete all required safety training and medical surveillance, as applicable, prior to accessing the research environment or completing any work for the project.
- The minor will properly wear any personal protective equipment provided or required for the specific work hazards, following proper training by the Principal Investigator/Supervisor.
- The minor will do their part to ensure they are under continuous supervision while in the research environment and never alone.

I AGREE TO ALLOW the minor to work in FAU laboratories and participate in FAU research-related activities, and I, for myself and on behalf of the minor, freely accept and assume all associated risks and hazards, whether known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated. I ALSO AGREE AND UNDERSTAND that the minor's participation and access to any FAU facility, laboratory, field site, vessel, or other research environment may be restricted, suspended, or terminated at any time at the discretion of FAU and its officers, agents, and employees.

I, for myself and on behalf of the minor and any respective heirs, assigns, and representatives, hereby release, waive, and forever discharge FAU, the State of Florida, the Florida Board of Governors, and their officers, employees, agents, and volunteers (collectively, the "Released Parties") from any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, or expenses (including attorneys' fees and court costs) arising out of or related to the minor's presence in, access to, or participation in any FAU research environment or activity, whether caused in whole or in part by the negligence of a Released Party or otherwise. I further agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Released Parties from and against any claims, damages, judgments, settlements, or costs (including attorneys' fees and court costs) arising from such participation.

Additional Terms

- **Authority:** I represent that I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor named above and have full legal authority to sign this Form on behalf of myself and the minor.
- **Compliance/Removal:** I understand FAU may require immediate removal of the minor from any research environment for safety or policy reasons, and I agree to promptly retrieve the minor upon request.

- **Medical Fitness & Disclosure:** I represent that the minor is medically and physically able to participate in the activities described, and I will promptly notify the PI/Supervisor of any condition, limitation, allergy, or medication that may affect safe participation.
- **Emergency Care Consent:** In the event of an emergency, I authorize FAU personnel to obtain or arrange reasonable emergency medical evaluation and treatment for the minor. I understand I am responsible for all costs of such care, and that FAU does not provide health insurance coverage for the minor.
- **Insurance/Costs:** I acknowledge FAU does not provide medical, disability, workers' compensation, or other insurance for the minor. I am responsible for any expenses not covered by my insurance and for any loss or damage to the minor's personal property.
- **Governing Law/Venue:** This Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Florida, without regard to conflicts principles, and any dispute shall be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction in Palm Beach County, Florida.
- **Severability:** If any provision is held invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions will remain in full force and effect.
- **Entire Agreement/No Reliance:** This document (including Appendix A) constitutes the entire agreement regarding the minor's participation and supersedes all prior discussions.

In signing this agreement, I acknowledge and represent that I have read and understand it and that I sign it voluntarily and for full and adequate consideration, fully intending to be bound by the same; and that I am at least eighteen (18) years of age and fully competent.

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT, UNDERSTAND THAT I AM GIVING UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO BE BOUND BY IT.

Printed Name of Minor Child:

Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian:

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian: _____

Date:

Appendix A: Potential Hazard Information Sheet

Initials of Parent/Guardian:

Definition	Hazards	Health Effects	Examples
Chemicals	Refined Compound that could be in the form of a solid, liquid or gas. These may or may not be hazardous. Some compounds may have numerous hazard classifications (flammable, toxin, and carcinogen)	Carcinogens: may cause some sort of cancer with long term exposure – usually many years in the future.	Benzene
		Teratogen: shown to affect the reproductive system of males and females and may cause birth defects in the developing fetus.	Alcohol, Thalidomide, X-rays
		Neurotoxins: may affect the nervous system.	Ethidium Bromide, snake venom
		Flammables: will burn or explode	Acetone, Xylene, Alcohol
		Reactive: will react explosively	Peroxides, Acrylamide
		Corrosives: will cause tissue damage with contact through inhalation, eye, skin, etc.	Acids and bases
		Toxins: may cause illness or death from exposure	Cyanide
Compressed gases	High-pressure cylinders that hold gases. These are usually large and heavy. Gas may be harmless, toxic, corrosive, or flammable.	Explosive hazard if ruptured. Asphyxiant hazard if gas if vented into the workplace and displaces oxygen.	Asphyxiant: Nitrogen, Helium, and other non-oxygen gas. Flammable: Hydrogen, Oxygen Toxic: Ammonia
Radiation and Radioactive Materials	High energy particles (alpha and beta) or photon (X-rays, gamma).	Tissue and organ damage with high doses	Uranium, Phosphorus32, Sulfur35, X-rays
Physical Hazards	Hazards from noise, machinery, heat, cold, etc.	Tissue damage, hearing loss	Scrapes, cuts Cold: liquid Nitrogen, dry ice Heat: Burners
Lasers	Light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation	Eye damage and possible skin damage	Class IIIB and IV lasers and open beam laser operation
Biological Agents	Living organisms or products of living organisms such as	Risk Group 1 – No hazard	Baker's Yeast and E. coli K12
		Risk Group 2 – Mild to severe illness	Influenza, Polio, Salmonella

Initials of Parent/Guardian:

Definition	Hazards	Health Effects	Examples
	<p>Viruses, Bacteria, Fungi, Prions, and Parasites. Hazards from exposure to these agents are organism dependent and can range from mild treatable to severe untreatable. Classification of hazard in four groups called Risk Groups with Risk Group 1 as the least hazardous and Risk Group 4 as the highest hazard. Work with Risk Group 3 agents is dependent upon agent and risk assessment. Work with Risk Group 4 agents is not permitted at FAU.</p>	<p>Risk Group 3 – Severe illness and possible death Risk Group 4 – Deadly disease, can easily travel from one person to another</p>	<p>Tuberculosis, HIV and West Nile Virus Hemorrhagic fever viruses</p>
Recombinant/synthetic nucleic acid	Genetically modified organisms with variations in genes within the organism	Often unknown consequences once introduced to the human body	Plasmids and Viral Vectors (e.g. Adeno and Adeno-associated viruses)
Toxins – Microbial, Plant and Animal	Poisons produced by plants, living organisms or animals	Tissue and organ damage or death	Plant – Ricin Animal – Fish and Snake venom Microbial – Staph, Tetanus
Boating/Diving	Propeller injuries; Falls from boat movement; Bad weather; Decompression sickness; Drowning; Arterial gas embolism; Hypothermia; Dangerous marine life	Severe injury or death	Riding in a boat during research activities Scientific diving for research purposes