

RECOVERY CENTER CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN AN OUTCOME STUDY
University of Kentucky Medical Center, Center on Drug and Alcohol Research
UK Health Follow-up Study

WHY AM I BEING ASKED TO TAKE PART IN THIS RESEARCH?

You are being asked to take part in a research study of Recovery Centers. You are being asked to do this because you are a client of a recovery support program in Kentucky. Your participation in this research project is completely voluntary. If you take part in this study, you will be one of about 200-300 people per year to do so. This research study is separate from your taking part in services at the Recovery Center. Your taking part in the study is not required for admission to the program.

WHO IS DOING THE STUDY?

The Principal Investigator in charge of the study is Dr. TK Logan. She is a Professor at the University of Kentucky. Robert Walker, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., and Jennifer Cole, Ph.D. also work with the study. Other professionals who work with the investigators may help them with the study.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?

The purpose of this study is to gather information about substance abuse and related behavioral health problems. It also studies employment, education, housing, legal status, stress and health status and your use of behavioral health services. It is also for the purpose of evaluating how people benefit from Recovery Center services.

WHERE IS THE STUDY GOING TO TAKE PLACE AND HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

During Phase 1 intake, program staff will ask you questions about substance use and related behaviors. In addition, twelve months after you entered Phase 1 of the Recovery Center, UK will contact you by telephone for a follow-up interview. For both interviews, the total amount of time for this study is about 1 hour over the next year. In general, we usually contact about 20% of the persons who agree to participate in the follow-up study. Therefore, your chances are about one in five of being contacted for follow-up.

WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO?

You will be asked to answer questions about your experiences at the Recovery Center as well as your substance use and related behavioral health problems. You will also be asked about your employment, education, housing, legal status, stress, and your use of services. You will be asked these questions, but you will not be asked to take part in any experimental treatments or procedures. The Recovery Center will also supply us with information about your length of stay in the program and your program status.

You will also be asked to give contact information. This includes the names, addresses, and phone numbers of two persons who would be most likely to know how to reach you at the time of follow-up about 12 months from now. We may call you to update your information so we can reach you for the follow-up. If we call you for a follow-up interview by telephone, you will be asked some of the same questions asked during your Phase 1 intake interview. This follow-up telephone interview takes about 20 minutes.

You or the people you list as contacts may be contacted by phone, mail, email, or through social networking sites such as Facebook in order to reach you to complete the follow-up interview. We may use publicly available databases to find updated information in order to contact you about completing the follow-up interview. In some cases, we may confidentially try to contact you through addresses or phone numbers that are or have been linked to you in some way by mail or phone. When trying to contact you, the researchers will continue to keep your connection with a Recovery Center confidential. You are also asked to let the researchers use state information about the number and types of state-funded services that you received.

ARE THERE REASONS WHY I SHOULD NOT TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY?

There are no conditions that would keep you from taking part in this study.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS?

There are no known risks to participating in these interviews. It is perhaps possible that the questions will cause you some emotional discomfort since they might cause you to remember times when you were unhappy or under stress. Also, some people may be uncomfortable talking about confidential information. Because of the steps we have taken to protect your privacy, the risk of unauthorized disclosure is minimal. If you have some discomfort during the intake interview you can speak about it with Recovery Center staff and at follow-up you will be offered referral to agencies nationally and in your area.

WILL I BENEFIT FROM TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?

There are no direct benefits to you for taking part in the Recovery Center Outcome Study. However, some people find it helpful to be interviewed about their lives and their substance use because it helps them see their health in a different light. Also, these questions about substance use might help you see a need for change and this can be a benefit.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY?

If you decide to take part in this study, it should be because you really want to volunteer. You will not lose any benefits or rights you would normally have if you choose not to volunteer. You can skip any question you do not want to answer and stop at any time during the study and still be in good standing with the Recovery Center.

IF I DON'T WANT TO TAKE PART IN THE STUDY, ARE THERE OTHER CHOICES?

If you do not want to take part in this study, there are no other choices except to not take part in the study.

WHAT WILL IT COST ME TO TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY?

You will not have any cost for participating in the Phase 1 intake interview or the 12-month follow-up interview.

WHO WILL SEE THE INFORMATION THAT I GIVE?

Because of the steps we have taken to protect your privacy, the risk of unauthorized disclosure of information is minimal. Your information will be combined with information from other people taking part in the study. When we write about the study, we will write about the combined information we have gathered. You will not be identified in these written materials. When we publish the results of this study, we will keep your name and other identifying information private. Recovery Center staff will ask for your social security number but it will be encrypted to keep it secure and protected. This number will help us match all information clearly to your file; however, if you do not want to give us your social security number, you can still take part in the study. All information is stored in computers that are secure and under password protection. Files are encrypted to further protect your confidentiality.

We have obtained a Confidentiality Certificate from the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to protect the researchers from being forced, even by a court subpoena, to identify you. (The Confidentiality Certificate does not imply approval or disapproval of the project by the Secretary of DHHS.) You should know, however, that we may provide information to appropriate individuals or agencies if harm to you, harm to others, or child abuse is disclosed to us. In addition, the agency funding this research (The Kentucky Housing Corporation) and the staff of the University of Kentucky may also see your information if necessary.

WILL I RECEIVE ANY REWARDS FOR TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?

You will receive \$20.00 for a completed follow-up interview at 12 months after you entered Phase 1. In order to get the \$20.00 you must take part in the follow-up interview, and then payment will be mailed to you. If you are paid over \$600 in any year from various studies, the University of Kentucky has to report this as income to the IRS. There is no compensation for completing the Phase 1 intake interview.

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Before you decide whether to participate in this follow-up study, please ask any questions that might come to mind now. Later, if you have questions about the study, you can contact the Investigator, Professor TK Logan at 859-257-8248. If you have any questions about your rights as a volunteer in this research, contact the staff in the Office of Research Integrity at the University of Kentucky at 859-257-9428 or toll-free at 1-866-400-9428. We will give you a copy of this consent form to take with you.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

This study is funded by the Kentucky Housing Corporation to better understand recovery support programs in Kentucky. You will be told if any new information is learned which may influence your willingness to continue taking part in this study.