

Basic Elements of Consent Disclosure Statements For Survey Research & Example Statement

1. A brief statement that the survey is part of a “research study”.
2. A brief statement regarding the purpose of the research and who is performing it.
3. A statement regarding research procedures. Explain that the study involves answering a series of questions and will take a specific length of time.
4. A statement regarding any foreseeable risks. These might include tiring from answering questions or being asked sensitive questions. If there are no risks, this should be indicated.
5. A statement regarding anticipated benefits. Describe the potential benefits of the knowledge to be gained and any benefits for subjects. If there are no benefits to subjects, this should be indicated.
6. A statement that participation is voluntary and that failure to participate will not adversely affect the care of the subject.
7. A statement regarding provisions to maintain the confidentiality of the data.
8. The consent statement need be no more than 6 to 8 sentences in length. It should be formatted in a manner that deletes any section headings.
9. Willingness of the subjects to complete the survey will serve as adequate documentation of informed consent.
10. Add a ‘preparation date’ to either the top or bottom of the survey.

Example: You are being asked to complete this survey as part of a research project being conducted by (insert name) to look at (insert purpose). The survey is (insert number) questions long and will take about (insert time) to complete. There are no known risks or personal benefits to completing this survey; however, the knowledge gained may benefit (insert who might benefit from the research). Completing the survey is voluntary and neither completing nor declining to complete the survey will affect [your employment or standing at UHS or GSM] OR [your relationship with your doctor or UT Medical Center]. No identifiable data will be collected (OR, if that’s not true, how it will be protected). Your willingness to complete the survey serves as consent to participate.