**Scope of Informed Consent**

(a) Researchers obtain consent from subjects or their legally authorized representatives:

1. When data are collected from subjects through any form of communication, interaction, or intervention; or
2. When behavior of subjects participants occurs in a private context where an individual can reasonably expect that no observation or reporting is taking place.

(b) Despite the paramount importance of consent, researchers may seek waivers of this standard when:

1. The research involves no more than minimal risk for research participants, and
2. The research could not practicably be carried out were informed consent to be required. Waivers of consent require approval from institutional review boards or, in the absence of such boards, from another authoritative body with expertise on the ethics of research. Under such circumstances, the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information must be maintained unless otherwise set forth.

(c) Researchers may conduct research in public places or use publicly available information about individuals (e.g., naturalistic observations in public places, analysis of public records, or archival research) without obtaining consent. If, under such circumstances, the researcher has any doubt whatsoever about the need for informed consent, they consult with their departmental body or with the Institutional Review Board before proceeding with the proposed research..

(d) In undertaking research with vulnerable populations (e.g., youth, recent immigrant populations, the mentally ill), researchers need to take special care to ensure that the voluntary nature of the research is understood and that consent is not coerced.

(e) Researchers should be familiar with and conform to applicable state and federal regulations and, where applicable, institutional review board requirements for obtaining informed consent for research.