

**King's University College at Western University, Canada
INFORMATION AND CONSENT FOR PARTICIPANTS**

DEAR PARTICIPANT

Dr. Rachel Birnbaum, School of Social Work, King's University College, Western, Ontario is collaborating with a coalition of Ontario partners (including the family law lawyers and courts) to support the provision of family law services by family lawyers across the province. You are invited to take part in a research study about your views and experiences with summary legal counsel services at court. Below is a description of the study.

It is important to hear what you have to say about your experiences and how helpful or not it was to have a lawyer assist you at court on the day of your appearance. This research *may* offer important insights to other individuals who also need a lawyer to help them with their family issues.

The interview with Dr. Birnbaum will take place at your convenience by telephone for about 20 minutes and will be audio-recorded. You can obtain a list of the questions prior to the interview if you request it. Your experience and consent to be interviewed in this process is greatly appreciated. As well, Dr. Birnbaum can provide some counselling services for you if any part of this interview causes you any unnecessary stress.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

All information collected will be used for research purposes only and will be kept confidential. However, you must know that if you tell Dr. Birnbaum any information about your children being abused or neglected, she will have to report it to the local Children's Aid Society. Dr. Birnbaum will use a code number and not your real name in this research and all information that will identify you or your family will be kept separate by this number to protect your identity.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

Your participation in this research project is completely voluntary and you may answer all, some or none of the questions and still receive the services provided.

THANK-YOU

This research project may be helpful for other individuals like yourself as they make their way through the family court system. Your assistance in being part of this research project is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact Dr. Rachel Birnbaum toll free at: 1-800-264-4406, Ext. 4431 or 416-428-0884 for the results when the study is completed.

If you have any questions or concerns about your right as a participant or any questions and/or complaints, please call the Associate Academic Dean, Dr. Joe Michalski at: 1-800- 265-4406, Ext. 4396 or email him at: jmicahl2@uwo.ca.

Rachel Birnbaum

Rachel Birnbaum, Ph.D., RSW, LL.M.
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CONSENT FORM FOR FAMILY LITIGANT

The Project has been explained to me. I understand that the information gathered about me will be kept confidential. I have been told of the possible risks (any information that suggests abuse or neglect will result in a report to Children's Aid Society) and benefits of the Project and that this information may help in understanding how others can be assisted by summary legal counsel for the day of court. I have been assured of privacy and confidentiality, and that no information that discloses my identity will be released or printed without my prior verbal and written permission.

- 1) The information is used only by Rachel Birnbaum.
- 2) I will be identified by a code in place of my real name for all information and any information that identifies me will be kept by confidential and secure.
- 3) I will receive a copy of both the Information for Participant and this Consent Form.
- 4) I may contact Rachel Birnbaum to obtain the results when the study is completed.

I understand that my participation in this Project is completely voluntary and it has been explained to me that I can withdraw at any time and will still receive the services provided. My signature below signifies my written permission to participate in this Project.

Name and telephone #

Your signature

Witness name

Witness signature