**Western Carolina University**

**Consent Form to Participate in a Research Study**

**Project Title: Survivor’s report the impact of campus sexual assault and their use of campus support services.**

**Principal Investigator**: Elizabeth Anderson, DSW, LCSW (PI) and Josie Crolley-Simic, PhD, MSW (Co-PI)

**Description and Purpose of the Research:** The purpose of this study is to examine the impact of campus sexual assault on the survivor’s grade point average, degree completion, finances and the survivor’s knowledge and use of campus support services. This study will contribute to the growing body of knowledge of effective academic support to help campus sexual assault survivors in achieving their academic goals. This study will ultimately inform college administrators, Title IX administrators, victims’ rights advocates, policy makers, and survivors.

**What you will be asked to do:**  The survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. You will be asked about what campus support services were offered and/or which services you used after the sexual assault. You will also be asked about your grade point average, degree completion and financial burdens related to the sexual assault. Participation is anonymous; you will not be asked to provide your name.

**Risks and Discomforts:**  Researchers anticipate that your participation in this study presents minimal risk or discomfort. If you experience discomfort during the survey, researchers suggest for you take a break, skip any questions, and/or stop participation in the study. If at any time, you experience distress during the survey process, and think that you would benefit from support please call one of these toll-free numbers: Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN)- 800-656-HOPE or National Domestic Violence Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Hotline: 800-799-7233

**Benefits**: You may benefit from the awareness that you have contributed to the knowledge regarding the impact of campus sexual assault on survivors’ academic performance. This information may assist college administrators, Title IX administrators, victims’ rights advocates, and policy makers in improving services for survivors of campus sexual assault. At a minimum this study will raise awareness about the experiences of campus sexual assault survivors. If you would like a copy of the findings we will send you that information, simply send an email to ebanderson@wcu.edu

**Privacy/Confidentiality/Data Security:**  Participation in this study is anonymous. You will not be required to provide your name or any identifying information. All data will be locked in a file cabinet in a researcher’s office for 5 years. Only the researchers will have access to the data. Researchers may present findings at state or national conferences and may publish findings in academic journals.

**Voluntary Participation:**  Participation is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw your consent or discontinue participation at any time without penalty.

**Contact Information:** For questions about this study, please contact: Elizabeth Anderson by email at ebanderson@wcu.edu or Josie Crolley-Simic by email crolleysimic@wcu.edu

If you have questions or concerns about your treatment as a participant in this study, you may contact the Western Carolina University Institutional Review Board through the Office of Research Administration by calling 828-227-7212 or emailing irb@wcu.edu.

**Toll-free Crisis Hotlines:**

 Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN)- 800-656-HOPE

National Domestic Violence Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Hotline: 800-799-7233