

Participants being sought for a sociological research study on Down Syndrome

My name is Laura Holt and I am a graduate student in the department of sociology at the University of Louisville. I am looking for participants for my research study. I will be conducting a series of individual interviews on the subject of genetic screening for Down Syndrome. If you are a parent to a child with Down Syndrome you may be eligible to participate in this study.

This study is about prenatal genetic screening for Down Syndrome, and abortion, as well as the effects of individual's choices about both, on the community and the lives of those who have the condition and their families. It is important that we gain a better understanding of how parents who are raising a child with Down Syndrome feel about prenatal genetic screening techniques and selective abortion for the condition. The perspectives of families affected by Down Syndrome are an important consideration in the development of public policies.

Participants will be asked to answer questions in one individual interview, not to exceed ninety minutes in length. These discussions will be conducted at a time and place convenient for those willing to participate, or by phone if a participant prefers. The interview(s) will be recorded with a voice recorder; however, participants may direct the investigator to turn off the recorder at any time during the interview(s), without affecting the participant's ability to participate in the study. Participants may also be asked if they are willing to participate in one individual interview for follow-up clarification, not to exceed thirty minutes in length.

Information collected during interviews will be kept confidential. If the research from this study is made public, the identities of the participants will not be revealed. The study will be conducted over the course of the next six months. To be able to take part in the study, participants must be eighteen or older, not pregnant at the time of the interview, and be a permanent parent to a child with Down Syndrome (not be acting temporarily as a caregiver, but having permanent custody as a parent or guardian).

Please contact me if you are a parent to a child with Down Syndrome and you would be interested in participating. I am available by email at leholt01@cardmail.louisville.edu. Also, please let me know if I can answer any questions or address any concerns that you may have.

In addition, should you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to contact my graduate advisor who is acting as the principal investigator for this study, Dr. David J. Roelfs, PhD at (502)852-8038, or at david.roelfs@louisville.edu

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