**Informed Consent to Participate in Research**

Information to Consider Before Taking Part in this Research Study

**Title:** ***[Title of study, as it appears on the IRB application, grant/contract, or sponsored protocol. Best to bold title so it is more visible.]***

**Study # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Overview:** You are being asked to take part in a research study. The information in this document should help you to decide if you would like to participate. The sections in this Overview provide the basic information about the study. More detailed information is provided in the remainder of the document.

Study Staff: This study is being led by *[insert name of PI]* who is a *[list PI’s role]* at/in *[list name of PI’s employer].* This person is called the Principal Investigator. *[The following sentence should be included if there is a faculty advisor involved] [He/She]* is being guided in this research by *[insert name of faculty advisor]*. Other approved research staff may act on behalf of the Principal Investigator.

Study Details: This study is being conducted at *[insert location at which research will be conducted]* and is supported/sponsored by *[insert name of sponsor].* The purpose of the study is to *[insert brief summary of purpose]. Briefly explain in a few sentences, in lay language (understandable at a 7th grade reading level), the purpose of the study and the expected duration of the prospective subject’s participation. Example: The purpose of this study is to find out.... Tell the person, in lay terms, how the research will be carried out and whether the research includes a one-hour interview, a two-hour focus group, a 20-minute questionnaire, a 90-minute lab session in which you will solve complex puzzles, etc.*

Participants: You are being asked to take part because *[explain in lay language the condition(s) or situation that makes the prospective subject eligible for the research. Example: We are asking you to take part in this study because you have anxiety. We want to understand how people with anxiety cope through tough situations.]*.

Voluntary Participation: Your participation is voluntary. You do not have to participate and may stop your participation at any time. There will be no penalties or loss of benefits or opportunities if you do not participate or decide to stop once you start. Alternatives to participating in the study include: *[If there are alternatives, describe the procedures/treatments/interventions that the subject could receive such as taking a different course of treatment, etc.]*. *[If extra credit is offered for participation, please state that an alternative assignment will be offered to students as a non-research alternative involving comparable time and effort to that which is involved in the research. If subjects are employees, include as applicable:* Your decision to participate or not to participate will not affect your job status, employment record, employee evaluations, or advancement opportunities*. If subjects are students, include as applicable:* Your decision to participate or not to participate will not affect your student status, course grade, recommendations, or access to future courses or training opportunities.*]*

Benefits, Compensation, and Risk: We do not know if you will receive any benefit from your participation. [*If applicable:* There is no cost to participate.] You *[will /will not]* be compensated *[enter amount if compensated]* for your participation. [*If applicable:* This research is considered minimal risk. Minimal risk means that study risks are the same as the risks you face in daily life.]

Confidentiality: Even if we publish the findings from this study, we will keep your study information private and confidential. Anyone with the authority to look at your records must keep them confidential.

**Privacy and Confidentiality**

*Use this language for online surveys:*

It is possible, although unlikely, that unauthorized individuals could gain access to your responses because you are responding online. Confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used. No guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet. However, your participation in this online survey involves risks similar to a person’s everyday use of the Internet. If you complete and submit an anonymous survey and later request your data be withdrawn, this may or may not be possible as the researcher may be unable to extract anonymous data from the database.

*Use this language for online interviews:*

If completing the study online, it is possible, although unlikely, that unauthorized individuals could gain access to your responses. Confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used. No guarantees can be made regarding the interception of information sent via the Internet. However, your participation in this study involves risks similar to a person’s everyday use of the Internet.

*Use this language for focus groups:*

Please be advised that although the researchers will take every precaution to maintain confidentiality of the data, the nature of focus groups prevents the researchers from guaranteeing confidentiality. The researchers would like to remind you to respect the privacy of your fellow subjects and not repeat what is said in the focus group to others.

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about this study, call *[name of Principal Investigator]* at *[telephone #]*. If you have questions about your rights, complaints, or issues as a person taking part in this study, call the MGS IRB at (813) 974-5638or contact the IRB by email atMIRB@mgsns.org . *[Research conducted at MGS Affiliates should insert Affiliate contact information here.]*

We may publish what we learn from this study. If we do, we will not let anyone know your name. We will not publish anything else that would let people know who you are. You can print a copy of this consent form for your records.

I freely give my consent to take part in this study. I understand that by proceeding with this survey/interview/focus group *(select appropriate term)*, I am agreeing to take part in research and I am 18 years of age or older.

*[Place the link to the online survey here (to make sure that subjects read the entire statement) before they click on the link.]*