



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre,  
Institute for Lifecourse and Society,  
North Campus,  
National University of Ireland,  
Galway

Tel: **(083) 4554382 (Voicemail)**  
-calls returned within 24 hours  
email: **j.mooney4@nuigalway.ie**

### Research Project

*How Adults Tell: Messages for Society and Policy Makers Regarding Disclosure of childhood Sexual Abuse*

**Primary Researcher:** Joseph Mooney LLB, MA

**Supervisor:** Professor Caroline McGregor

**Funding Sponsor:** National University of Ireland, Galway Doctoral Research Scholarship

**Invitation to Participate:** You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. This Participant Information Sheet will tell you about this research. If you agree to take part, you will be asked to sign a **Consent Form**. If there is anything that you are not clear about, I will be happy to explain it to you. Please take as much time as you need to read this information sheet. You should only consent to participate when you feel that you understand what is being asked of you, and when you have had enough time to think about your decision.

**Purpose of the study:** I am doing this study because I want adults to feel confident, safe and have clarity about the process when disclosing their experiences of childhood sexual abuse to social work services. This study will examine what aspects of this process make it easier or more difficult for adults to disclose. You have been invited to participate because you have been through this process and your experiences are valuable to this study. Participants are being sought through the Rape Crisis Network Ireland and One in Four.

**Study Procedures:** This study will use a research method known as Biographical Narrative Interviewing. The interview will last between 60-90 minutes and will take place at the centre where you usually receive therapy or advice. You will be asked an initial open question about your referral to social work services after which you can choose to tell me as much or as little as you like. I will not interrupt at any point and will take a few notes while you are speaking. Following this I will ask a few questions based on what you have told me and then you will have a chance to ask or add anything you wish. After about 10 days I will make a short follow up phone call to make sure you have no further questions and to remind you of the supports available to you. This interview will be the only requirement on your time.

**Potential benefits and risks:** The entire study will conclude in 2017 at which time you will be provided with results and information as to how your contribution has helped. You will also be provided with initial findings a few months after all interviews have been conducted (including information about the range of experiences gathered, positive and negatives elements of disclosure etc). Your participation can help researchers, policy makers, other adult survivors and society to better understand the process of disclosing to social work services. This information could change practice and policy in this area. My intention is that there will be minimal risk to you. However some questions may raise uncomfortable feelings or emotions related to past experiences. While I will not be asking any direct questions about experiences of abuse you are free to speak about these experiences if you wish. Your participation is entirely voluntary and you can choose to refuse to answer any questions or to stop participating at any point. Withdrawing from the study will not affect you in any way.

**Confidentiality:** At all times the information you provide will be strictly confidential and your identity will never be published or linked with what you chose to say in the interview. All information you provide will be securely held and after the interviews are completed, only I will have access to your contact information. The only information I will collect will be your name, how best to contact you and whatever you decide to share during the interview. Your name and other personal identifying information will never be used in any reports, presentations or publications. **Please note, however, that there are limits to my ability to keep all matters confidential. If it emerges that you pose a risk to yourself, then I will discuss this with the therapy or advocacy organisation that referred you to the study. If I believe that there is a clear and serious risk to others, then I may be required to report this to the relevant authorities (e.g. Health services and/or the Garda).**

**Audiotape Recordings:** In order to conduct this research, I will ask your permission to digitally record what is said during the interview for data analysis purposes only. All digital recordings will be destroyed following the conclusion of the research and only I will have access to these recordings throughout the research.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and should you decide to participate your experiences will provide an invaluable contribution to this research.**

If anything causes you concern, or if you have questions, you may contact me, the primary researcher of the study, Joseph Mooney at [j.mooney4@nuigalway.ie](mailto:j.mooney4@nuigalway.ie) or at **(083) 4554382 (Voicemail – calls returned within 24 hours)**.

This research was approved by the National University of Ireland, Galway Research Ethics Committee. If you have any questions or concerns about your rights or welfare as a participant in this study, please contact the Chairperson of the NUI Galway Research Ethics Committee, c/o Office of the Vice President for Research, NUI Galway, [ethics@nuigalway.ie](mailto:ethics@nuigalway.ie).

**--THANK YOU--**



## **PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM**

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### **Research Project**

#### ***How Adults Tell: Messages for Society and Policy Makers Regarding Disclosure of Childhood Sexual Abuse***

**Primary Researcher:** Joseph Mooney LLB, MA

**Supervisor:** Professor Caroline McGregor

**Funding Sponsor:** National University of Ireland, Galway Doctoral Research Scholarship

**Purpose of the study:** The purpose of this study explore adult survivor's experiences of disclosing or referring childhood sexual abuse to child protection social workers.

**Study Procedures:** The study will involve a 60-90 minute interview about you experiences of disclosing childhood sexual abuse to social work services. The interview will take place in the centre where you usually receive advice, therapy or counselling. A short follow-up call approximately 10 days after the interview will be made to you to ensure that you are safe and that you know who to contact if in need of support.

**Potential benefits and risks:** Your participation can help researchers, policy makers, other adult survivors and society to better understand the process of disclosing to social work services. This information could change practice and policy in this area. My intention is that there will be minimal risk to you. However, some questions may raise uncomfortable feelings or emotions related to past experiences. While I will not be asking any direct questions about experiences of abuse you are free to speak about these experiences if you wish.

**Voluntary participation:** Your participation in the research study is entirely voluntary. Your choice of whether or not to take part will not affect you in any way. At any point, you may refuse to answer any question or stop participating altogether. You may freely ask questions about this agreement now or at any time.

**Confidentiality:** All information you share with me will be securely held and kept strictly confidential. Your name and other personal identifying information will never be used in any reports, presentations or publications. **Please note, however, that there are limits to my ability to keep all matters confidential. If it emerges that you pose a risk to yourself, then I will discuss this with**

**the therapy or advocacy organisation that referred you to the study. If I believe that there is a clear and serious risk to others, then I may be required to report this to the relevant authorities (e.g. Health services and/or the Garda).**

**Audiotape Recordings:** In order to conduct this research, I am asking your permission to digitally record what is said during the interview for data analysis purposes only. All digital recordings will be destroyed following the conclusion of the research and only I, the primary researcher, will have access to these recordings throughout the research.

If anything causes you concern, or if you have questions, you may contact me, Joseph Mooney, at [j.mooney4@nuigalway.ie](mailto:j.mooney4@nuigalway.ie) or at (083) 4554382 (Voicemail – calls returned within 24 hours).

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**Please initial box**

- 1. I confirm that I have read the information sheet dated..... (version.....) for the above study and have had the opportunity to ask questions.
- 2. I am satisfied that I understand the information provided and have had enough time to consider the information.
- 3. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason, without my legal rights being affected.
- 4. I agree to take part in the above study.

<b>Name of Participant</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature</b>
_____	_____	_____

<b>Name of Person taking consent</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature</b> (if different from researcher)
_____	_____	_____

<b>Researcher</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature</b>
_____	_____	_____

--THANK YOU--