

# Field Safety Plan – In-Home Research Activities

**University:** Utah State University (USU)

**Research Group / Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal Investigator (PI):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Study Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expected Start/End Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 1. Project Overview

Provide a brief description of the study and the field-based activities involved.

- **Purpose of the study:**

\_\_\_\_\_

- **Type of field work:** (e.g., in-home human subjects research)

\_\_\_\_\_

- **Summary of activities conducted in the field:**  
(e.g., one-on-one teaching sessions with a child using toys, cards, or learning materials)

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## 2. Field Locations & Environment

Describe where the field work will take place and the general conditions expected.

- **Location type:** (e.g., private residences)

\_\_\_\_\_

- **Geographic area:** (e.g., Cache Valley – Smithfield to Hyrum)

\_\_\_\_\_

- **Typical setting within the location:** (e.g., kitchen table, living room)

\_\_\_\_\_

- **Anticipated environmental factors:** (check all that may apply)
    - Variable home layouts
    - Presence of children
    - Presence of pets
    - Noise or distractions
    - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
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### 3. Personnel & Staffing

Identify who will be conducting the field work and how it will be staffed.

- **Roles involved (titles or positions):**  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - **Staffing model:** (e.g., two researchers will be present to conduct interventions)
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### 4. General Risk Assessment

Identify foreseeable risks associated with the field setting and activities.

Examples may include working alone, unfamiliar environments, minor household hazards (dog bite, trip hazards), or interpersonal discomfort.

- **Identified risks:**  
\_\_\_\_\_
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### 5. Risk Mitigation & Safety Practices

Describe steps taken to reduce or manage identified risks.

Examples may include remaining in common areas, caregiver presence, and requiring animals to be leashed.

- **Safety practices implemented:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Situational Awareness in Private Residences

Researchers should remain aware that private residences may present unpredictable social or environmental conditions. If a researcher observes behaviors or conditions that cause them to feel unsafe (e.g., signs of escalating conflict, substance use, or other concerning activity), they should prioritize personal safety and may end the session early without penalty. Researchers are not expected to assess, investigate, or intervene in household situations beyond ensuring their own safety and following existing reporting requirements, if applicable.

- **Procedure for ending a session due to safety concerns:**

(e.g., If a researcher feels unsafe or uncomfortable at any point, they may end the session early using a neutral explanation (e.g., “I need to stop the session for today” or “I’m going to pause here for today’s session”) informing the caregiver that the session needs to be stopped. The researcher will leave the residence immediately and notify the PI or study supervisor as soon as practicable.)

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## 6. Working Alone Procedures

Complete this section if any sessions are conducted by a single researcher.

- **Communication method available during sessions:** (e.g., cell phone)

\_\_\_\_\_

- **Check-in / check-out procedure (as applicable):**

\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Transportation & Travel

Describe travel related to field work.

- **Mode of transportation:** (e.g., personal vehicle, university vehicle)

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- **Travel area limitations:** (e.g., local travel within Cache Valley)

\_\_\_\_\_

- **Additional travel considerations:** (e.g., permits, parking challenges/restrictions):

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## 8. Emergency Response

Describe how emergencies will be handled.

- **Medical emergencies:** (e.g., severe - call 911, minor - get to the nearest IHC WorkMed or USU preferred medical provider)  
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- **Personal safety concerns:** (e.g., leave location, contact supervisor)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- **USU reporting or notification expectations after an incident:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 9. Training & Preparation

List required or recommended training for researchers conducting field work.

- **Required training:** (Defensive Driving, Situational Awareness)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- **Additional preparation or orientation provided:**  
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## 10. Acknowledgment

*This field safety plan is intended to address general safety considerations for in-home research activities. Not all elements of this plan may apply to every home or session. Researchers are expected to use professional judgment to adapt to individual settings while maintaining personal and participant safety.*

By signing below, the research team acknowledges review and understanding of this field safety plan.

**PI Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Role	Date	Signature