

Why

IRB?

Institutional Review Board

Manage Conflicts of Interest

IRB can prevent the following: Timmy is doing a research project to determine the best cell phone company. His mom works for Apple.

Promote Voluntary Participation

IRB can prevent the following: Timmy tells Sally to be in his study or he won't be her friend anymore. Sally agrees to preserve their friendship.

Protect Human Rights

IRB can prevent the following: Timmy refuses to provide a Spanish version of a consent form to a potential participant who only speaks Spanish.

Ensure Ethical Practice

IRB can prevent the following: Timmy hand-picks certain people to be in his study because he knows they will help him support his hypothesis.

Questions about Clarke's IRB? Search **IRB** on Clarke's home page to learn more!

Human Subject Research

Q: What is a human subject?

A: A human subject is any human being who is subjected to interactions or interventions for the purpose of research and collecting data or observations.

Q: Why are human subjects protected?

A: Prior to the establishment of the IRB, humans (especially those most vulnerable) were often subjected to dangerous or unwanted research conditions without providing consent.

Q: What are some examples of human subject research?

A: Some examples may include giving out a survey for classmates to fill out and distributing the results, having people perform 2 different exercise programs to see which one has better outcomes, or having people drink two different juice brands to determine which tastes better.

Q: When is IRB approval needed?

A: Any time a human subject is utilized in some way to collect data or make observations that will later be disseminated, IRB approval is needed.

Q: If I am not sure whether or not my project is considered human subject research, what should I do?

A: If after utilizing online resources, including Clarke's IRB website, you still are unsure whether or not your project needs IRB approval, you can e-mail irb@clarke.edu to confirm.

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