

Consent Form
Study of Close Same Sex Friendships

Your participation in this project is greatly appreciated. We are interested in learning more about close same-sex, non-romantic friendships in which one friend has become a parent, went through a divorce or had a serious illness and the other friend has not. We want to learn more about how friends adjust, cope or change when one friend adjusts to new challenges. The interviews typically last between one hour and two hours. We will audiotape and transcribe the interviews. We also may take notes as we interview. Some people find participating in this type of interview useful and enjoyable because it gives them a chance to talk about things that matter to them.

Every effort will be made to protect your confidentiality. We will keep your tapes and transcripts in our research laboratory. Only the project members will have access to your transcripts. Your name will not appear in the transcripts. In any publication or public statement based on the study, all names, occupations or other potentially identifying information will be omitted or changed.

You may ask any questions regarding the research and they will be answered fully. You may withdraw from the study at any time. Your participation is completely voluntary.

If you wish to participate, please complete the following:

I, (print your name legibly) _____, heard and read the introduction to this study and understand its contents. Any questions I have had have been answered to my satisfaction. I understand my right to withdraw my consent to participate at any time. I hereby freely give my consent to participate in this research project.

NAME (Signature): _____

DATE: _____

Please feel free to contact us if you have any further ideas or concerns about the project. In a few months, we will post a summary of our conclusions on Dr. Heather Smith's web page (<http://www.sonoma.edu/people/hsmith/default.html>). Thank you again for your help.