



Participant Information Sheet

The Lived Experience of Adults Adopted as Older Teenagers by their Long-Term Foster Carers

What difference does adoption make now you are an adult?

Please take some time to read this information and ask questions if anything is unclear.

My contact details are at the end of this document.

What is this study about?

This study is about understanding what difference being adopted makes to young adults who were adopted, when they were 16 or 17 years old, by their foster carers.

Who is doing the research?

My name is Sinéad Whiting and I am a PhD student at Trinity College Dublin. I used to work as a social worker for Tusla Adoption Service. I am not doing this research for Tusla I am doing it as part of my PhD at Trinity College. Trinity College Ethics Committee and Tusla Research Ethics Committee have approved this research.

Why have you been asked to take part?

I want to interview men and women who are:

- Between 20 and 25 years of age and
- Were adopted by their foster carers after their 16th birthday.

Do you have to take part?

Taking part is entirely voluntary. Even if you say you want to take part but later change your mind that is okay. If you agree to take part, I will ask you to sign a consent form.

You can leave the study at any time. What is important is that you decide for yourself.

What will happen if you take part?

If you take part, I will talk to you for about 45 minutes to one hour. I want to talk about what it is like being a young adult who was adopted as an older teenager by your foster carers.

There are no right or wrong answers and you do not have to answer any questions you don't want to.

I want to record your exact words, so I understand exactly what you tell me. For that reason, I would like to record our interview on a digital audio recorder. I will be the only person who will listen to the recording. After our interview I will type up a copy of the interview word by word. This is called a 'transcript'. Only myself and my supervisor will read this full transcript. I will store the information in a password protected zip file. Only myself and my supervisor will have access to this. If you want to read the transcript of your interview you can contact me and I will send you a copy.

What are the possible advantages of taking part?

Your story may help social workers and other people working with children who want to be adopted from care. Understanding more about this may help social workers, policy makers and others working in the area decide what role adoption could have when they are making plans for older children in foster care who want to be adopted.

What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?

I will be asking you to talk about some private information and sometimes talking about things from your past can be upsetting. If you do become upset and think you would like support, I can help to put you in contact with an agency who can support you.

Will people know that you took part in the research or what you said?

Your privacy is important to me. Any time I use the information you share with me I will change your name. I will be the only person who knows your real name.

There are some places where I will need to use your real name. These are:

- on the signed consent form.
- on the audio recording of our interview.

These forms will be kept in a locked filing cabinet in my office in Trinity College Dublin. Only myself and my supervisor will be able to open this filing cabinet. I will keep the audio recordings and the consent forms for two years after my research is complete. Then I will destroy them.

There are some things that I cannot keep private. I must adhere to Children's First Legislation. If you tell me anything that makes me concerned or worried that you or someone else is at risk of harm, I might have to report this. I will discuss it with you first and we will talk about it together. I may have to report it with or without your permission.

What if there is a problem?

If you are unhappy with how I carry out the interview you can contact my supervisor, Professor Robbie Gilligan. His contact details are given below. You can also use Tusla's feedback and complaints process if you want to make a complaint. If you go www.tusla.ie/about/feedback-and-complaints/ there are details about how to make a complaint.

What will happen to the results of this study?

I am doing this research for my own PhD study. Once I have completed the interviews, I will write up my thesis. The information collected from the interviews will be in this thesis. I will also write some articles for publication. These may be read by other researchers and people interested in the topic. I will present my findings at conferences in Ireland and abroad. I will also have a website where I will have information about me, my research and I will put up information about the findings from my study.

At no time will your name or any identifying information be shared with anyone.

WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?

If you have any questions please phone me or email me. I would be very happy to talk to you.

Thank you

Sinéad

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