

Participant Information Form

Background Information

You are invited to be in a research study exploring the experiences that wrongfully convicted individuals have while navigating the job market. You were selected as a possible participant because you are 18 years of age or older, have been convicted of and served time for a crime, and have either been exonerated of that same crime or currently are or have been the client of an innocence organization who gained freedom through another avenue such as time served, a plea agreement, etc. You also must have been released for one year as of January 1st 2020. Please read this form carefully and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to participate in the study. Please note, your participation throughout the study is entirely voluntary.

This study is being conducted by: Michelle Estes, Department of Sociology at Oklahoma State University

Actions:

If you agree to be in this study, I will ask you to do the following things:

- Participate in one interview lasting about 1-2 hours (telephone call or video call)
- Be audio recorded during the interview.

Participation in the study involves about 1-2 hours' time commitment from you to complete the interview.

Risks and Benefits of being in the Study

The study has some potential risks for participants. You may be asked to recall or discuss experiences that may cause mild mental and/or emotional distress regarding your experiences related to work and incarceration. During the interview, I will ask you questions about your experiences with work, training, and education before you were wrongfully convicted, your experiences with training/educational programs while incarcerated, your experiences with work, training, and education since you have been released and exonerated, and the status of your criminal record. You can skip any of these questions if you do not want to answer them.

To offset these risks, certain protections will be provided. Everything you tell me will be private. I will be the only person with access to your answers. Your name will not be used in any written reports. As the only researcher on this project, I will be the only one with access to your audio recordings. Also, all information collected will be stored on password protected devices and again only I will have access.

The benefits which may reasonably be expected to result from this study are that you will be given the opportunity to share your personal experiences and learn about yourself in the process. More broadly, participants will help service providers and policymakers understand the experiences of wrongfully convicted individuals, which can help in developing services and policies to address their unique needs. I cannot guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from this study.

Approved:
Protocol #: AS-19-35



Compensation

You will receive a \$20 incentive to Amazon for your participation. You will receive payment 24-48 hours upon completion of the interview. Your email address will be shared with the Department of Sociology Administrative Assistant who will send you an email with the details of your incentive. You will be asked to respond that you have received the email and incentive.

Privacy

The information that you give in the study will be handled privately. You will be able to choose a fake name that will be used in all written reports. I will collect information through audio-recorded interviews. This audio information will be stored on my personal, password protected computer. All audio files will be deleted once they have been recorded as text. Electronic and paper copies of the recorded text will be kept for three years after information collection is complete. Paper copies of the interviews will be stored in a locked file in my office. After three years, electronic copies of these materials will be deleted from my personal computer and all paper copies will be destroyed. Your data collected as part of this research project will not be used or distributed for future research studies. Again, please note that I am the only researcher on this project which means I will be the only person that has access to the information you provide.

Voluntary Nature of the Study

Your participation in this research is strictly voluntary. There is no consequence for not participating, and you are free to remove your agreement and participation in this project at any time. You can also choose to not participate. You can skip any questions that make you uncomfortable and can stop the interview at any time. Your decision whether or not to participate in this study will not affect your relationship with me as the researcher or Oklahoma State University.

Contacts and Questions

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the protection of human research participants at Oklahoma State University has reviewed and approved this study. If you have questions about the research study itself, please contact me at (931) 215-3997, michelle.estes@okstate.edu. If you have questions about your rights as a research volunteer or would simply like to speak with someone other than myself about concerns regarding this study, please contact the IRB at (405) 744-3377 or irb@okstate.edu. All reports or communication will be kept private. This project has also been reviewed and approved by the Innocence Network Research Review Committee.

You will be given a copy of this information to keep for your records.

Statement of Consent

I have read the above information. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have them answered. I confirm that I meet the study's eligibility requirements listed above. I agree to participate in the study and show my agreement by participating in an audio recorded interview.

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