

Georgia State University
College of Law
Informed Consent – Survey, Observation, and Interview

Title: Mediators and Analytical Techniques

Principal Investigator: Professor Douglas Yarn

I. Purpose:

You are invited to participate in a research study. The purpose of the study is to gain a better understanding of how lawyer-mediators use analytical techniques to help parties settle disputes. You are invited to participate because you are an experienced lawyer and mediator. Participation involves a brief survey and the observation of a mediation followed by an interview. The survey will take 10 minutes or so and the post-observation interview will require about 60 minutes of your time.

II. Procedures:

If you decide to participate, a law student assigned to you will contact you to arrange for the survey and observation. In the post-observation interview, the student will ask you about what you did in the mediation and specifically how you used analytical techniques.

III. Risks:

In this study, you will not have any more risks than you would in a normal day of life.

IV. Benefits:

Participation in this study will not benefit you personally. Overall, we hope to gain information that will improve mediation practice and training.

V. Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal:

Participation in research is voluntary. You do not have to be in this study. If you decide to be in the study and change your mind, you have the right to drop out at any time. You may skip questions or stop participating at any time. Whatever you decide, will have no negative effect on you

VI. Confidentiality:

We will keep your records private to the extent allowed by law. Professor Yarn will have access to the information you provide. Information may also be shared with those who make sure the study is done correctly (GSU Institutional Review Board, the Office for Human Research Protection (OHRP)). We will not associate your name or other identifying information with the survey and notes from this interview. The data will be

stored on a restricted hard drive. No identifying information and other facts that might point to you will appear when we present this study or publish its results. The findings will be summarized and reported in group form. You will not be identified personally.

VIII. Contact Persons:

Contact Professor Douglas Yarn at (404)413-9147 or dyarn@gsu.edu if you have questions, concerns, or complaints about this study. You can also call if you think you have been harmed by the study. Call Susan Vogtner in the Georgia State University Office of Research Integrity at 404-413-3513 or svogtner1@gsu.edu if you want to talk to someone who is not part of the study team. You can talk about questions, concerns, offer input, obtain information, or suggestions about the study. You can also call Susan Vogtner if you have questions or concerns about your rights in this study.

IX. Copy of Consent Form to Participant:

You are welcome to a copy of this consent form for your records if you like.

If you agree to participate in this research, please indicate your assent and we will begin.