

Example Parent Consent Form for High School Students

Safe Keeping Project

The Safe Keeping Project

The Safe Keeping Project helps youth avoid early sexual activity. It also helps youth avoid other risk behaviors. Safe Keeping is taught in health class at Westbrook High School.

What Is the Study About?

Safe Keeping is part of a national study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The study will learn about characteristics and strengths of youth who participate in the program. It will also learn about youth behaviors, experiences, and decisions. And it will learn about whether youth think the program works and what happened in the program.

This study involves more than 433,000 youth across the nation each year. This includes all 250 students at Westbrook High School this year. Your child was chosen because he or she is a student at Westbrook High School.

If you allow your child to be in the study, s/he will be asked to fill out an 8-minute survey in class before the program begins. S/he will also be asked to fill out a 16-minute survey in class after the program ends. Surveys will not include any youth names. The surveys will include questions for high school students about their living situation and sexual orientation. Questions will ask whether youth think the program affected their decisions about avoiding having sex. Questions will ask whether youth have had sex and whether they have been pregnant or had a sexually transmitted infection (STI). And questions will ask about use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

Even if you agree that your child can be in the study, s/he can decide to not complete any or all parts of the surveys.

You will receive a copy of this form to keep.

Your Child's Answers Will Be Kept Private

No survey answers will be linked with your child's name. Only the Youth Are Our Future staff and the Healthy Families Institute, who teach the Safe Keeping program during health class, will be able to see the surveys. The surveys will not be shared with the school. Answers your child provides will be combined with those from other youth in the study. That way, DHHS can say things like, "75 percent of youth surveyed felt they plan to not have sex as a result of the program."

Risks from Being in the Study

It is possible that your child's answers could be seen by another student or somehow revealed. If answers were revealed, your child could be embarrassed. If answers were revealed, your child could get in trouble if s/he answered that s/he used alcohol under age or used illegal drugs. However, we will make every effort to keep all answers private. Youth will not write their names on the surveys.

It is possible that your child may be uncomfortable or upset about the topics in the surveys. Youth may skip any questions that make them feel this way. We will give all youth a list of people they can talk to if they feel this way. Our staff will be available to talk to youth, answer questions, and accompany youth to the school counselor's office if needed.

Benefits of Study Participation

The information received from youth will improve the Safe Keeping Project and teen pregnancy prevention services funded by the federal government.

Your Child's Participation is Voluntary

We hope that you will want your child to be in the study, but you and your child do not have to participate. As mentioned previously, even if a parent provides consent for their child to participate in the study, the child may skip or not answer questions that may make them uncomfortable. If your child does not participate in the study, s/he will still receive health class, and your decision will not affect your child's grades or school services.

If you have any questions, you may call Melinda Hostler at Healthy Families Institute at (919) 555-5555 or Ben Goldsmith at Youth Are Our Future at (919) 444-4444.

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SAFE KEEPING PROJECT STUDY

I have read the above information.

Check one:

- I agree to allow my child to participate in two anonymous surveys for the Safe Keeping Project. I understand that my child may be asked some personal questions but can decide not to complete any or all parts of the surveys. I understand that all information will be kept strictly confidential. Only the Youth Are Our Future staff and the Healthy Families Institute, who provide the Safe Keeping program during health class, will be able to see the anonymous surveys.*
- I do not agree to allow my child to participate in two anonymous surveys for the Safe Keeping Project.*

Name of Youth (Printed) _____

Name of Parent/Guardian (Printed) _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____