

# Example Youth Assent 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 gather information about:

- characteristics and strengths of youth who participate in the program;
- youth behaviors, experiences, and decisions;
- whether youth think the program works; and
- what happened in the program.

This study will involve more than 433,000 youth across the nation each year. This includes all 250 students at Westbrook High School this year. You were chosen because you are a student at Westbrook High School.

Your parent/guardian has agreed that you can be in the study. If you agree to be in the study, you will be asked to fill out an 8-minute survey in class before the program begins. And you will 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 to avoid 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 though your parent/guardian agreed that you can be in the study, you can decide not to complete any or all parts of the surveys.

You will receive a copy of this form to keep.

### Your Answers Will Be Kept Private

No survey answers will be linked with your 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 you provide 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 answers could be seen by another student or somehow revealed. If answers were revealed, you might be embarrassed or you might get in trouble if you answered that you used alcohol

under age or used illegal drugs. However, it is very unlikely that your answers will be revealed and we will make every effort to keep all answers private. You should not write your name on the surveys.

It is possible that some of the topics in the surveys might make you uncomfortable or upset. You may skip any questions that make you feel this way. We will give all youth a list of people they can talk to if they would like to do so. Our staff will be available to talk to you, answer questions, and accompany you 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 Participation Is Voluntary**

We hope that you will want to be in the study, but you do not have to participate. As mentioned previously, even though your parent/guardian consented to your participation in the study, you may skip any questions that make you uncomfortable. If you do not participate in the study, you will still receive health class, and your decision will not affect your 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.

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### **YOUTH ASSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SAFE KEEPING PROJECT STUDY**

***I have read the above information. By signing this form, I am indicating that I agree to participate in the study and have received answers to all my questions.***

*I agree to participate in two anonymous surveys for the Safe Keeping Project. I understand that I may be asked some personal questions, but I 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.*

Name of Youth (*Printed*) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Youth \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_