

Protection of Minors Policy and University Research

The Virginia Commonwealth University Safety and Protection of Minors on Campus policy applies to university research involving minors. Compliance requirements vary based on type of interactions, IRB exemptions, and presence of parents/guardians during research. Use the steps below to determine which requirements apply to your research.

Step 1: Does your research meet any of the following criteria?

- Clinical (a licensed healthcare professional operating under a provider-patient relationship).
- Retrospective or the only association with minors is through records or public observation.
- Exempted Research as found by the IRB via Form HRP-312.

If yes to any above, nothing is required of you from the Protection of Minors Office.

Step 2: If your research does not meet one of the criteria above-

Will parents, guardians, or authorized chaperones (as defined by the policy-school teachers, daycare providers, etc.) accompany the minor during the research?

If yes, please register your research with the Protection of Minors Office and choose the exception: "Minors serving as participants in Institutional Review Board approved research studies, only if all Minors are accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or Chaperone." The registration is all that is required.

Step 3: If your research does not meet any of the criteria above, it should have the following characteristics:

- Non-clinical research that involves verbal and/or physical interactions with children under 18 years of age.
- Parents, guardians, or chaperones are not present during the research.
- The IRB has found the research provides greater than minimal risk and the VCU researcher is responsible for the care, custody, and control of the minor during the research.

These studies have the following requirements:

- Registration with the Protection of Minors Office
- Background checks for adults interacting with minors
- Safety and Protection of Minors training for adults interacting with minors
- Written parental consent

If you have questions regarding the Protection of Minors Policy and your research, please contact youth@vcu.edu.



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