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Lucy Pickering

Information about Being in a Research Study
Texas A&M University-Commerce

Conscience Clauses: Do They Affect Social Workers?

Description of the Study and Your Part in It

Dr. Linda Openshaw, Principal Investigator, and four other professors: Gracie Brownell, Dawn Nelson, Marta Mercado-Sierra, and Marcella Smith from the School of Social Work at Texas are inviting you to take part in a research study. Dr. Linda Openshaw is a Professor of Social Work at Texas A&M University-Commerce in the School of Social Work at A&M University-Commerce in the College of Education and Human Services. The purpose of this research is examine attitudes of social work students, field instructors, and members of the National Association of Social workers' attitudes about consciences clauses and how they would affect social work practice.

Your part in the study is that you will be asked to complete an online survey administered through Survey Monkey that will ask you about your knowledge of conscience clauses and how they might affect any ethical decisions that you may make in social work practice.

It will take you about 15 minutes to complete the study online.

Choosing to Be in the Study

You do not have to be in this study. Participation is voluntary. You may choose not to take part and you may choose to stop taking part at any time without penalty. You will not be punished in any way if you decide not to be in the study or to stop taking part in the study. If you decide not to take part or to stop taking part in this study, it will not affect your grades in the social work program in any way.

Risks and Discomforts

There will be minimal risks, no more than that expected in daily life.

Possible Benefits

We do not know of any way you would benefit directly from taking part in this study. However, this research may help the researchers understand and write about how conscience clauses would be a beneficial to social work practitioners.

Incentives

Participants will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 amazon gift card. In order to be entered into the drawing, participants must enter their email address that will be kept separate from their responses to ensure anonymity. The winner will receive the gift card via email.

Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality

We will do everything we can to protect your privacy and confidentiality. We will not tell anybody outside of the research team that you were in this study or what information we collected about you in particular. The

survey is anonymous. No identifying information will be collected. In order to maintain confidentiality, completed surveys will be stored using password protected computers and only the researchers will have access. Results will be maintained for 3 years after the study is concluded.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns about this study or if any problems arise, please contact the researcher at

Dr. Linda Openshaw
School of Social Work
Texas A&M University-Commerce
903-468-6095
Linda.Openshaw@leomail.tamuc.edu

If you have any questions or concerns about your rights in this research study, please contact the IRB Chair at

Dr. Lucy Pickering
Chair, Institutional Review Board (IRB)
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Consent

By beginning the survey, you acknowledge that you are at least 18 years old, have read this consent form, have understood the above information, and agree to voluntarily participate in this research.

If you would like a copy of this form for your reference, you may print this out.