

APPENDIX A: STEPFAMILIES: CHILDREN SPEAK OUT

You are invited to participate in a study entitled Stepfamilies: Children Speak Out, that is being conducted by E. Sharon McLeod, who is a graduate student in the Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies at the University of Victoria. If you have questions about this study, you may contact Mrs. McLeod by telephoning her at 1-250-758-6714; by e-mail at sharonmcleod@shaw.ca; or by writing to her at:

Mrs. S. McLeod
209 Rockmount Place
Nanaimo, B. C.
V9T 4H5

As a Graduate student, Mrs. McLeod is required to conduct research as part of the requirements for a Masters degree in Counselling Psychology. This research is being conducted under the supervision of Dr. David de Rosenroll. You may contact him at:

P.O. Box 3010 STN CSC,
MacLaurin Building, Room A353
Victoria, B. C.
V8W 3N4
Telephone 1-250-721-7841

Or by e-mail at derose@uvic.ca

The purpose of this research project is to determine how children feel about their experiences in a stepfamily and also to compare data collected, to find the similarities and differences in the opinions of children presently in stepfamilies, and adult children of stepfamilies. Participants must be, or have been, children raised in a stepfamily union.

Research of this type is very important because although there are many books and articles published that reflect the opinions of the parents (both male and female) in stepfamily unions, little if any information is available on the child's perception of life in a stepfamily. Data collected may prove relevant to many fields, but most notably, to the field of Family Therapy.

Participation in this research is voluntary. Those persons who choose to participate will be expected to commit to a one hour taped interview, in which the following information will be discussed:

- Expectations held before entering a stepfamily
- Actual experiences in a stepfamily
- Changes you would make if beginning a stepfamily of your own

They will also be expected to agree that the data may be used for scholarly research purposes and for possible later publication purposes (article, book or Internet information).

Identity of participants will be kept confidential. After the interview process is completed, tapes will be transcribed into a hard copy (paper form) and identified only by the alphabet letter D and

a number (from 1-8). Once the transcription is complete, the tapes will be erased. Hard copies of the transcriptions will be kept in a locked file cabinet, accessible only to the investigator.

To prevent the possibility of risk (emotional) to the participants, counselling assistance (free) will be made available (as needed) both during and after each session.

The potential benefits of participation are:

- The opportunity to reminisce and fully clarify the experience.
- To provide society with up to date information on how a child perceives the experience of living in a stepfamily and what s/he would like to see changed/modified in this type of family relationship.
- To assist society in providing a base for program development that will enable children and adults to have a more positive stepfamily experience.

In addition to being able to contact the investigator and/or the supervisor (see above), you may verify the ethical approval of this study, or raise any concerns that you may have, by contacting the Associate Vice-President, Research at the University of Victoria (1-250-472-4632).

Your signature below indicates that you understand the above conditions of participation in this study and that you have had the opportunity to have your questions answered by the researchers.

Name of Participant

Signature

Date

A copy of this consent form will be left with you and a copy will be taken away by the researcher.