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Informing Policy and Improving Programs to Enrich People's Lives

October 21, 2020

RE: Request for exemption to Section III.G.1 that prohibits sharing juvenile dates of birth

Dear Members of the Data Dissemination Committee,

NPC Research respectfully requests an exemption to Section III.G.1. of the Data Dissemination policy. This section considers "dates of birth of a minor child" confidential information that shall not be shared. NPC Research is requesting court records (juvenile and adult) to use in an outcome evaluation of the Clark County Juvenile Recovery Court that we have been contracted by Clark County to conduct. The evaluation will measure program outcomes (graduation rates, time to graduation, etc.) and post-program outcomes, including recidivism, in a treatment group and a comparison group that did not participate in the JRC. We will be linking AOC court records to program data and other administrative data sources (detention, probation, etc.) and having juveniles' dates of birth will increase the accuracy of data links.

We have received Washington State IRB approval to conduct this study and NPC Research has data security procedures in place to protect the identifiable data we are using in the evaluation. We will keep the dates of birth secure, will not share them or use them for any other purposes than the current evaluation, and will not provide any dates of birth in our evaluation report. NPC Research has been contracted by Clark County to conduct multiple evaluations of their therapeutic court programs and has utilized, and safeguarded, AOC/JIS court records to conduct these evaluations. Our study is facing a major limitation due to RCW 13.50.280 that prohibits our access to identifiable sealed juvenile court records. Please help us overcome another potential limitation by granting an exemption to Section III.G.1. so that we can use juvenile dates of birth to increase the accuracy of data links across multiple data sources and therefore enhance the validity of our study results.

Please let me know if you have questions or need more information. I would be happy to answer and provide.

Sincerely,

Marny Rivera

Marny Rivera, Ph.D.
Senior Research Associate