

<b>STUDY PROJECT TITLE:</b>	STORIES of FAMILY SAFETY (Study 1b)
<b>PROTOCOL NUMBER:</b>	Version 1.0 (10/01/2023)
<b>PROJECT ID:</b>	Australian Research Council (ARC) LP210100181
<b>ETHICS APPROVAL NUMBER:</b>	06072022
<b>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:</b>	Professor Jennifer McIntosh

La Trobe University has partnered with The Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia and Relationships Australia South Australia in a study of family safety and well-being. The study asks for your help with:

- (1) Understanding how family well-being & safety can be improved during and after the family law process, and
- (2) Building a new education program for judges, lawyers and court staff to better support the needs of parents and children during their court journey.

When you first presented to the family law courts, you completed a survey about yourself, your family and your safety and gave permission for our team at La Trobe University to contact you about a follow-up study – the **STORIES of FAMILY SAFETY** study. This information sheet tells you about this study and provides contact details below should you have further questions.

#### ***What's involved?***

- A **30-minute confidential survey** (online, or over the phone at a time that suits you with a researcher from the project). Your responses to the survey cannot be shared with the family law courts.
- You will receive a **\$100 gift voucher** for your time.
- If you are eligible for a further study after you have completed this one, we will get in touch.

#### ***Who funds this research?***

This research study is being funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC).

#### ***Do I have to participate?***

No, you do not have to participate. Participation is completely **voluntary**, and you will be asked to provide your consent before answering any questions. If you decide not to participate, this will not affect the services or supports you receive from the family law courts.

#### ***Will the information I provide be kept private & confidential?***

Yes, all information you provide will be kept **private and confidential** and it **cannot** be shared with the Courts. Your name and contact details will be stored securely and separately from your responses. All information collected will be used for research purposes only. No individual will be identifiable in any type of report published from this study.

All electronic data at La Trobe University is stored on a secure storage system, accessible only to specifically trained and employed research personnel. Only authorised researchers will be able to link your data with your contact details for follow-up purposes. Storage, transfer and deletion of all study data is undertaken in accordance with La Trobe University's [Research Data Management Policy](#).

#### ***What if I change my mind?***

You may change your mind and withdraw your consent at any time. You do not need to provide a reason for withdrawal, and this will not affect the services or supports you receive from the family law courts. We will use any information already collected from you unless you tell us not to.

***What are the benefits?***

This project will provide important information to improve family well-being and safety during and after the family law process, and to the development of resources and educative output to help improve this process.

You will receive a \$100 gift voucher for your valuable contribution.

***What are the possible risks?***

We do not expect any risks as a result of taking part in this study. However, if you are experiencing any concerns about safety or well-being for you or your family, we will provide a list of helpline and support services.

***Who can I contact if I have any questions about the study?***

Please contact Professor Jennifer McIntosh on (03) 8481 4824 or [jenn.mcintosh@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:jenn.mcintosh@latrobe.edu.au) or Dr Anna Booth on (03) 8481 4830 or [a.booth@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:a.booth@latrobe.edu.au)

***What if I have a complaint or concerns?***

If you have any complaints or concerns about this project, you can contact the Senior Research Ethics Officer at La Trobe University on (03) 9479 1443 or [humanethics@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@latrobe.edu.au).

Yours sincerely,



Professor Jennifer McIntosh  
Principal Investigator