**DECEPTION FORM**

Some types of research can be carried out only if the participants do not know the true purpose of the research in advance. However, because such studies involve a potential breach of trust, they should not be entered into without sober reflection on the necessity for using deception and its potential impact on participants, once disclosed. Researchers intending to conduct studies involving deception will need to ensure that their research meets the conditions outlined in the TCPS 2 Article 3.7A.**\***

1. The research involves no more than minimal risk to participants
2. The lack of participant consent is unlikely to adversely affect the welfare of the participant
3. It is impossible or impracticable to carry out the research and to answer the research question properly, given the research design, if prior consent of participants is required
4. There is a plan to provide a debriefing and the opportunity to withdraw consent and data

As noted in the TCPS2, debriefing is an important mechanism in maintaining the participant’s trust in the research community and should be proportional to the sensitivity of the issue studied. Where minor deception has been used, often the debriefing can be a simple candid disclosure. However, in more sensitive research, researchers should provide a full explanation of why participants were misled, why it was necessary and express their concern about the welfare of participants. Re-establishing trust that might have been lost is an important dimension of the debriefing process and researchers should be sensitive to participants’ needs, feelings, reactions and concerns.

If your study involves deception, please (1) complete the next page; (2) delete this instruction page before saving; (3) attach the next page to your ethics application.

\*References in the TCPS 2 (2018)

To access the print version (PDF): <https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/documents/tcps2-2018-en-interactive-final.pdf>. Page numbers refer to the print pages.

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|  | PRE1 website | Print version |
| Article 3.7A | [https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/tcps2-eptc2\_2022\_chapter3-chapitre3.html#7a](http://pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/tcps2-eptc2_2018_chapter3-chapitre3.html#7a) | *Alterations to Consent Requirements* | see page 54 |
| Article 3.7B | https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/tcps2-eptc2\_2022\_chapter3-chapitre3.html#7b | *Debriefing in the Context of Alterations to Consent Requirements* | see page 58  *Exceptions to the requirement to debrief* | see page 60 |

1 The Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics (PRE)

Use as much space as needed.

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| 1. Deception undermines informed consent. Describe:    1. why you believe deception is necessary to achieve your research objectives (i.e. that the research cannot be done in any other way)    2. why you believe that the benefits of the research outweigh the costs to participants. |
| [insert answer] |
| 1. Outline the anticipated impacts of your use of deception on the participants, once they have learned of it. |
| [insert answer] |
| 1. Describe how you will debrief participants at the end of the study. Confirm that participants will be asked whether they want to withdraw their data. |
| [insert answer] |
| 1. In very limited circumstances, when the debriefing is not possible, practicable or appropriate, it may be acceptable to waive the debriefing requirement. A very strong argument is required before the BREB will approve the use of deception without a debriefing. If you are proposing to not debrief participants, please provide your justification, and include:    1. How the participant population will learn about the study    2. Whether any representatives of the study population were consulted about the study design and questions. |
| [insert answer] |