



NDSU RESEARCH STUDY
Step-Grandparenting Experiences

Dear Potential Participant,

My name is Heather Fuller and I am a faculty member at North Dakota State University in the department of Human Development and Family Science. I am the director of the Linked Lives Research Lab where our research focuses on families, intergenerational relationships, and the well-being among older adults. Along with my research team (Sara Raap, Brooke Kranzler, and Morgan Wangler), we are currently working on a research study entitled “Step-Grandparenting Experiences” which will explore the experience of being a grandparent within a stepfamily.

This project consists of interviews either in person or over the phone. The focus of this exploratory study is to learn more about the experience of those who identify as stepgrandparents and how it influences various aspects of their lives. We believe that this study will better help us understand the role of grandparents in blended or step- families.

We would like to invite you to participate in this research project. We think you will find the questions interesting. If you are interested in learning more, please read on.

Thank you for your consideration!

Heather Fuller, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Title of Research Study: Step-Grandparenting Experiences

This study is being conducted by: Dr. Heather Fuller, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Science, NDSU and Research Assistants from the Linked Lives Research Lab.

Why am I being asked to take part in this research study?

We are inviting grandparents who are part of blended or step- families (i.e., step-grandparents) to participate.

Do I have to take part in the study?

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary therefore you are free to decline or withdraw from participation at any time. If you change your mind and decide to leave this study, you may do so without any consequences.

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What are the benefits to me?

By participating in this study, you will have an opportunity to reflect upon your experiences. Many people find these questions to be interesting.

What are the benefits to other people?

You will help to make this study meaningful by allowing researchers to learn more about the lives and experiences of those who identify as stepgrandparents. The findings from this research will be shared with family and aging experts who may be able to draw from this research to find ways to support and strengthen step-family relationships.

What will I be asked to do?

You will complete an interview which will consist of questions about you, your family, and your role and overall feelings as a stepgrandparent. This interview will be recorded for later use.

Where is the study going to take place, and how long will it take?

You will have the choice to complete the interview in person or over the phone. The estimated time burden of completing the interview will be approximately 30-45 minutes.

Who will see the information that I give?

Your responses and any audio recordings of your interview will be kept confidential and maintained in a secure facility at NDSU. Your name will not be identified in the interview transcripts or later in reporting findings. Your name and contact information obtained through informed consent will be kept secure and separate and will only be accessed by the research team. Audio recordings will be deleted after all project analyses are complete.

Are there any risks of participating?

Although most studies have some degree of risk, the potential risks in this project are quite minimal. There are no known risks anticipated as a result of taking part in this study. However, some emotional discomfort is quite common to completing interviews.

Will I receive any compensation for taking part in this study?

To thank you for your time, we will be providing \$10 as compensation for your participation.

What are my rights as a research participant?

You have rights as a participant in research. If you have questions about your rights, or complaints about this research, you may talk to the researcher or contact the NDSU IRB Office, (701) 231-8995 or ndsu.irb@ndsu.edu. By completing the interview, you are agreeing that you have read and understand the above explanation of this study.

What if I have questions?

Before you decide whether to accept this invitation to take part in the research study, please ask any questions that might come to mind. If you would like any further information about this study or have any questions regarding this project, please call (701) 231-8268 or email Dr. Heather Fuller at heather.fuller@ndsu.edu.

Thank you for your participation in this research!

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