

Instructions: This document provides guidance on how to use the assent templates. Two different assent templates are available for different ages (7-11 and 12-17). Please use the version appropriate for the ages of the children in your study. If including children in different age groups, provide two assent forms for review.

Additional Information:

- This guidance is specific to how the assent documents should be created and used. However, the process of obtaining assent is not limited to what is put in an assent document. When submitting an IRB application, please describe the setting and process for obtaining assent in addition to explaining how assent will be documented (e.g., signing the assent form). If assent will not be signed, describe how assent will be obtained. Even when assent documents are not signed, the expectation is that researchers will still attempt to explain the study to children as best as possible based on the child's capacity and obtain their agreement to participate when possible.
- Assent must be obtained from the child if the child is 7 years old or older. However, the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS) may waive the assent requirement if some or all of the children lack the capacity to give meaningful assent, or the research holds out the prospect of direct benefit that is important to the health or well-being of the children that is available only in the context of the research.
- The federal regulations do not set a minimum age at which a child's assent must be solicited but instead say that assent is required whenever in the judgment of the CPHS the children are capable of providing assent, taking into account their ages, maturity, and psychological state. The CPHS has set this age at 7 years based on consultations with a child development expert on the University of Oregon faculty. Therefore, when research subjects are younger than 7, their formal assent does not have to be solicited, but the committee encourages researchers to explain to younger children what they will be asked to do in the course of the research and to secure their agreement to participation if possible.

How to Use the Assent Templates:

- The assent templates may be modified or expanded to better meet the needs of the research design and/or participant population.
- Regular **black text** and formatting, including bolding, are template and should not be removed unless otherwise noted.
- The **[blue-bracketed text]** (also identified by the **♦** symbol) identifies important information to be included in your assent form. It includes considerations as you develop your version of the document. Some considerations may not be applicable to your research. Enter customized information within the brackets and remove the symbol.
- The **red text** (also identified by the **❖** symbol) is instructional and includes an explanation of when to include or remove certain language and provides context about what needs to be included.
- **Green text** (also identified by the ***** symbol) provides examples or sample phrasing for the other text.
- Remove all instructions, all colored text, brackets and symbols prior to finalizing your consent document

Color Code Key			
Black	Blue (♦)	Red (❖)	Green (*)
Standard template text	Important Information	Instructions/context	Suggested Language