

## Birth Registration: Stories and Experiences – Participant Information

E: [birthregistrationlaw@kent.ac.uk](mailto:birthregistrationlaw@kent.ac.uk)

W: <https://research.kent.ac.uk/birth-registration-law/>

Welcome and thank you for considering taking part in the [Birth Registration Law: Exploring Challenges, Exclusions and Reform](#) project by telling us your birth registration story. Before taking part in the research, it is important to understand why it is being done, what participation will mean for you and what will happen to the information that you provide.

### ***Who is doing the research?***

The research is being conducted by [Dr Julie McCandless](#). The researcher has approval from the Kent Law School Research Ethics Advisory Group to conduct the research.

### ***What is the research about?***

The research aims to generate new knowledge about birth registration in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland by exploring challenges and difficulties that people have experienced with the birth registration system, especially those relating to exclusion. If you have a birth registration story, but are not sure that it is relevant for the research, you are welcome to contact the researcher on the email address above to arrange for an initial discussion.

### ***Who can participate in the research?***

You must be over 18 and have the capacity to fully understand and consent to participate in the research. You must also have had a challenging or difficult experience with birth registration in England, Wales, or Northern Ireland. You do not need to be currently living in England, Wales, or Northern Ireland to participate, but your experience must somehow relate to the birth registration system in England, Wales or Northern Ireland.

### ***How will the research be used?***

The research will contribute to academic analysis and may be used in publications, presentations, media reports, the project website, and other outputs from the project. The research may also be used to contribute to law reform and policy debates about birth registration.

### ***Can the researcher offer me legal advice?***

While it is hoped that participation will be a rewarding experience, the researcher is not in a position to offer any legal advice or case-work on your own personal situation or story.

### ***What will my participation involve?***

If you do decide to take part, your participation will involve providing some non-identifying information and writing about your birth registration experience. The non-identifying information helps the researcher contextualise the research findings.

A secure online platform is provided for you to submit your information.

You will first be asked to provide your name or an anonymous contact code and to confirm your eligibility and to give your consent to participate in the research. You will then be asked some non-identifying information about yourself. This part will take around 5 minutes of your time.

You will then be asked to write your story. A series of optional questions, designed to help you structure your story and tell us about your experience, are provided. You can write as much or as little as you want, but the more information you provide, the better the research results. It would be helpful to set aside at least 30-40 minutes for this part, or longer if you have a lot to say.

Finally, you will be asked if you would be interested in taking part in a follow-up interview during the next phase of the research. This is entirely voluntary, and you do not need to give a reason if you do not want to participate in a follow-up interview. If you do wish to participate, you will need to provide your contact details (name, email, and telephone).

### ***Will my story be confidential?***

The information that you provide for this research will be kept confidential and your identity will be known only to the researcher and her direct team. Confidentiality will be ensured in the following ways:

- All stories and related information will be fully anonymised before analysis takes place. For example, names will be replaced with pseudonyms and any identifying information (whether about you or another person) will be redacted.
- Any direct quotations from the information provided will not be linked with any identifying information about you.
- Participant personal data, i.e. name and contact details (email and telephone), will be securely stored separately from the other information provided (see further below).
- Each participant will be assigned a unique personal identifier, to be securely stored (see further below).

### ***How will the information that I provide be stored?***

All information provided will be securely stored. The online platform is secure, and submissions will be downloaded and stored in password-protected files to the University of Kent's secure server and to the researcher's University of Kent OneDrive account. These files will only be accessible by the researcher and her direct team.

Participant personal data, i.e. name and contact details (email and telephone) will be held in separate, password-protected files, along with the list of personal identifiers (see above).

Personal data will be destroyed after 10 years. Anonymised data may be stored in the Kent Data Repository for use in future research.

The University of Kent General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Privacy notice for research can be found [here](#).

### ***Do I have to take part in the research?***

You can decide whether to take part in this research. Your participation is entirely voluntary and you do not have to give a reason if you decide not to participate. If you do decide to participate, you will be asked to complete a consent form.

If you are unsure whether you want to participate, you are welcome to discuss any concerns with the researcher before deciding. A discussion with the researcher does not oblige you to take part and you do not have to give a reason for not participating.

***Can I withdraw my information?***

You are free to withdraw from the research up to six weeks after the receipt of your submitted information. You do not have to give a reason. You should contact the researcher at the email address above to request the withdrawal of your information from the research.

If you provide your contact details for a potential follow-up interview, you are free to withdraw these at any time prior to any interview, without giving a reason. You should contact the researcher at the email address above to request the withdrawal of your contact details.

***How do I get started?***

After you have read this information and asked any questions that you might have, you can get started by going to the [online platform](#).

***What are the possible benefits of participation?***

The research provides you with an opportunity to share your experiences of birth registration, your views on possible reforms and contribute to an under-researched area of societal significance.

***What are the possible risks of participation?***

While the risk of participation has been assessed as very low, it is possible that recounting your experiences may be difficult or painful for you. You should therefore only participate, and continue with your participation, to the extent that you feel comfortable doing so.

If you experience distress after participating in the research, the following free talking therapy organisations may be of assistance to you:

- [Samaritans](#), 24/7: Tel 116 123
- [CALM](#), 5pm-midnight: Tel 0800 58 58 or [Webchat](#)
- [The Mix](#) (for under 25s), 4pm-11pm: Tel 0808 808 4994, [Webchat](#) or [Crisis Messenger](#) (Text THEMIX to 85258)
- [Switchboard](#) (LGBT+), 10am-10pm: Tel 0300 330 0630 or
- [Student Nightline Services](#) – find local service [here](#)

***How can I keep informed of the research results?***

In due course, a summary of the findings of the research will be provided on the project website: <https://research.kent.ac.uk/birth-registration-law/>

If you would like to be added to a mailing list for the project for future updates, please email [birthregistrationlaw@kent.ac.uk](mailto:birthregistrationlaw@kent.ac.uk) with ADD TO MAIL-LIST in the subject heading.

***What if I have questions about the research?***

Feel free to contact the researcher, Dr Julie McCandless, at the email address above if you would like to know anything about the research or your participation. If you have any concerns about how the research has been conducted, please contact the Research Ethics & Governance Officer at the University, Nicole Palmer (T: 01227824797 E: [n.r.palmer@kent.ac.uk](mailto:n.r.palmer@kent.ac.uk) ).

**Thanks for reading this information and for considering taking part in the research.**