

## **DPH IRB – Recommended Effective Consent Language**

For projects using an effective consent, language about voluntariness is required, such as:

*Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary. You can choose to participate and withdraw at any time without penalty. You can refuse to answer any questions.*

Or (if the project involves minors):

*It is up to you if you want to be in this project. You will not get in trouble if you choose not to be in the project. If you choose to be in the project, you can change your mind and stop at any time. You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to.*

In addition to language about voluntariness, the effective consent should include a statement about whether the data collected about and/or from the participant will be anonymous or, if not, kept confidential. Confidential information is private information that can be linked to an individual, but is not shared with anyone else without the individual's permission. Anonymous information is information that cannot be linked to an individual (i.e., no Personally Identifying Information [PII] or Protected Health Information [PHI] collected).