You are being asked to be in a research study. This study is called “Parents’ Experiences with the Return of Adult Children to the Home”. This study is being done by Dr. John Johann. He is a professor in the College of Family Studies at the University of Alabama.

The study is supported by a small grant from the Rose Garden Family Trust. The money covers the costs of advertising, travel, postage, and gift cards for participants. Dr. Johann is not receiving additional salary for this work.

What is this study about?
During this recession, many adult children have been unable to find jobs or have lost jobs and have returned home to live with their parents. This study is seeking to understand the nature of this experience for those parents. Specifically, the investigator would like to know how the decision was made that the child could live at home, whether any limits were set on the length of stay, whether the child contributes to the family financially or in other ways, whether the child must abide by family rules for social life or other conduct, and what it is like for the parents to have their child under their roof again. You will also be asked about the physical characteristics of your home (space and privacy for the adult child, crowding for the family, etc.) and some of your personal or family characteristics such as age, education, occupation, and income level.

Why is this study important—What good will the results do?
The findings will help family scientists and specialists in adult development understand the issues that surround the return of an adult child to the parental home. This will help them to do more realistic counseling of families or young people facing this problem.

Why have I been asked to take part in this study?
You responded to an ad in West Alabama newspapers or aired on the radio. You told us that you are a parent whose adult child (age 21 or over) had returned home within the past year and has been living with you for at least six months. You gave us your contact information.

How many other people will be in this study?
The investigator hopes to interview 90-100 people from West Alabama within the next nine months.
What will I be asked to do in this study?
If you agree to be in this study, Dr. Johann or a research assistant will interview you in your home or a place of your own choosing about your experiences with the return of your adult child. The interviewer would like to tape record the interview to be sure that all your words are captured accurately. However, if you do not want to be taped, simply tell the interviewer, who will then take handwritten notes.

How much time will I spend being in this study?
The interview should last about 45-60 minutes, depending on how much information about your experiences you choose to share.

Will being in this study cost me anything?
The only cost to you from this study is your time.

Will I be compensated for being in this study?
In appreciation of your time, you will receive a $10 gift certificate to a local grocery store when the interview is completed.

What are the risks (problems or dangers) from being in this study?
The chief risk to you is that you may find the discussion of your experiences to be sad or stressful. You can control this possibility by not being in the study, by refusing to answer a particular question, or by not telling us things you find to be sad or stressful. We can also recommend a counselor to you if you seem to be upset or depressed. Seeing the counselor would be at your own expense.

What are the benefits of being in this study?
There are no direct benefits to you unless you find it pleasant or helpful to describe your experiences with your adult child’s return to the home. You may also feel good about knowing that you have helped family scientists or counselors learn how to help families or adult children better.

How will my privacy be protected?
You are free to decide where we will visit you so we can talk without being overheard. We will visit you in the privacy of your home or in another place that is convenient for you.

How will my confidentiality be protected?
The only place where your name appears in connection with this study is on this informed consent. The consent forms will be kept in a locked file drawer in Dr. Johann’s office, which is locked when he is not there. We are not using a name-number list so there is no way to link a consent form to an interview. When we record the interview, we will not use your name, so no one will know who you are on the tape. Once back in our office, a research assistant will listen to the tape and type out the interview. When the interviews have been typed, the tapes will be destroyed. This should occur within
one month of the interview. You may also refuse to be audiotaped, in which case the interviewer will take handwritten notes.

We will write research articles on this study but participants will be identified only as “persons from 10 counties in West Alabama”. No one will be able to recognize you.

**What are the alternatives to being in this study?**
The only alternative is not to participate.

**What are my rights as a participant?**
Being in this study is totally voluntary. It is your free choice. You may choose not to be in it at all. If you start the study, you can stop at any time. However, if you stop the interview, you will not receive the gift card. Not participating or stopping participation will have no effect on your relationships with the University of Alabama.

The University of Alabama Institutional Review Board is a committee that looks out for the ethical treatment of people in research studies. They may review the study records if they wish. This is to be sure that people in research studies are being treated fairly and that the study is being carried out as planned.

**Who do I call if I have questions or problems?**
If you have questions about this study right now, please ask them. If you have questions later on, please call Dr. Johann at 205-348-XXXX. If you have questions or complaints about your rights as a research participant, call Ms. Tanta Myles, the Research Compliance Officer of the University at 205-348-8461 or toll-free at 1-877-820-3066.

You may also ask questions, make a suggestion, or file complaints and concerns through the IRB Outreach Website at [http://osp.ua.edu/site/PRCO_Welcome.html](http://osp.ua.edu/site/PRCO_Welcome.html). After you participate, you are encouraged to complete the survey for research participants that is online there, or you may ask Dr. Johann for a copy of it. You may also e-mail us at participantoutreach@bama.ua.edu.

I have read this consent form. I have had a chance to ask questions.

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Signature of Research Participant  
Date

Signature of Investigator  
Date
NOTES TO INVESTIGATOR: This study would qualify for expedited review. The reading level (grade level) of the form is 8.3.