

**INFORMED ASSENT for YOUTH**

*To be read and signed by participants between the ages of 7 and 17. This is in addition to a parent's consent form.*

***Smart Steps: Embrace the Journey***

Welcome to the *Smart Steps: Embrace the Journey* classes. These classes are for children who have, or are preparing to have, a stepparent or stepbrothers and stepsisters. Around 200 other families are attending similar classes. The classes will help you get along with the people you live with. We would like to know what you think about the things you hear and do. Dr. Brian Higginbotham, in the Department of Family, Consumer, and Human Development at Utah State University, will use this information to make the classes better.

You will be asked to complete a few short surveys. Surveys will be passed out at the end of each class and will ask about the things you learned. The surveys may take around 3-5 minutes to complete. During the first and last class, we will also ask you to provide a little information about yourself. You may also be asked to be interviewed, photographed, or videotaped; we will keep this information for a long time. We will ask permission from your parents. Everything you tell us will be used to revise and improve the *Smart Steps* classes. Answering questions is not required. You do not have to answer any questions or talk to anyone that you don't want to.

Coming to the *Smart Steps* classes will help you learn more about living in a stepfamily. The things you learn should also help you get along better with your siblings, parents, and stepparents. You do not have to pay any money and there are no anticipated risks of attending the *Smart Steps* classes or answering our questions about your experience. It is possible you may not understand some questions. You can always ask the adults in the class to help you. You can also skip questions you do not want to answer.

By law, we do have to report child abuse and neglect as well as domestic violence witnessed by children. However, we will not tell anyone in your family, not even your parents, things that you share with us about the classes. If results of our study are published or presented, your name will not be listed. All records will be kept private. Only Dr. Higginbotham and his assistants will see the surveys, which will be kept in a locked file cabinet in a locked room.

The Institutional Review Board for the protection of human participants at USU has reviewed and approved this research study. If you have any questions or concerns about your rights, you may contact the IRB at (435) 797-1821. If you have questions about the program evaluation or research-related problems, you may reach Dr. Higginbotham at (435) 797-7276.

You have been given two copies of this form. Please sign both copies and keep one copy for your files. Give the other signed copy to the class instructor.

**Child/Youth Assent:** "I understand that my parent(s)/guardian is/are aware of my attendance in the *Smart Steps* classes and the associated evaluation and that permission has been given for me to participate. I understand that it is up to me to participate even if my parents say yes. If I do not want to participate, I do not have to and no one will be upset if I don't want to or if I change my mind later and want to stop. I can ask any questions that I have about this study now or later. By signing below, I agree to participate."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date