

**Consent to Participate in a Research Study**  
**CAREGIVING: STRESSES AND SUPPORT -- INTERVIEW**

Principal Investigator: John Jones, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, University of Michigan  
Co-investigator: Sarah Smith, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, University of Michigan

You are invited to be a part of a research study that looks at the stresses that people experience when they are providing care to a seriously ill family member. The purpose of the study is to design better support programs for caregivers. We are asking you to participate because you recently attended a meeting of a UM Caregivers Support Group. This study is being funded by the National Institutes of Health.

If you agree to be part of the research study, you will be asked to participate in one face-to-face interview at the location of your choice. The interview should take about one hour. We would like to audiotape the interview to make sure that our conversation is recorded accurately. You may still participate in the research even if you decide not to be taped. The discussion topics include the aspects of caregiving that you found to be rewarding and the things that you found to be difficult. We will also talk about the kinds of support, if any, that you received and what types of help you needed. To protect the privacy of your family member, we will not ask questions about the person for whom you provided care.

While you may not receive a direct benefit from participating in this research, some people find sharing their stories to be a valuable experience. We hope that this study will contribute to understanding the stress associated with caregiving and in the improvement of social support systems for those who provide care to others.

Answering questions or talking with others about the illness a family member can be difficult. You may choose not to answer any interview question and you can stop your participation in the research at any time. The interviewer will have a list of support agency referrals, if you are interested in more information about community resources.

You will be paid \$30 if you complete the interview. If you decide stop before the interview is completed you will still receive \$15.

We plan to publish the results of this study, but will not include any information that would identify you or your family member. To keep your information safe, the audiotape of your interview will be placed in a locked file cabinet until a written word-for-word copy of the discussion has been created. As soon as this process is complete, the tapes will be destroyed. The researchers will enter study data on a computer that is password-protected and uses special coding of the data to protect the information. To protect confidentiality, your real name and your family member's name will not be used in the written copy of the discussion. The researchers plan to keep this study data indefinitely for future research about caregivers.

There are some reasons why people other than the researchers may need to see information you provided as part of the study. This includes organizations responsible for making sure the research is done safely and properly, including the University of Michigan, government research offices, or the study sponsor, the National Institutes of Health. Because this study explores sensitive family relationships, if you tell us something that makes us believe that you or others have been or may be physically harmed, we may report that information to the appropriate agencies.

If you have questions about this research, including questions about the scheduling of your interview or your payment for participating, you can contact John Jones, Ph.D., University of Michigan, Department of Psychology, 123 East Hall, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, (734) 123-4567, [jjones@umich.edu](mailto:jjones@umich.edu).

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the University of Michigan Institutional Review Board Health Sciences and Behavioral Sciences, (734) 936-0933, 540 E. Liberty St., Suite 202 Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2210, [irbhsbs@umich.edu](mailto:irbhsbs@umich.edu).

By signing this document, you are agreeing to be part of the study. Participating in this research is completely voluntary. Even if you decide to participate now, you may change your mind and stop at any time. You will be given a copy of this document for your records and one copy will be kept with the study records. Be sure that questions you have about the study have been answered and that you understand what you are being asked to do. You may contact the researcher if you think of a question later.

*I agree to participate in the study.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*I agree to be audiotaped as part of the study.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date