

Journal of Forensic Identification

Research Subjects Protection Policy

The *JFI* supports the IAI's Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct, which include supporting *sound scientific techniques and practices*. The *JFI* Human Subject Protection Policy provides authors and researchers who intend to publish in the *JFI* with the standards that ensure that sound scientific techniques and practices regarding the treatment of human subjects have been met.

When reporting research involving live human or animal subjects, authors should clearly indicate within their manuscript whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of their agency's institutional review board (IRB). If no IRB or formal ethics committee is available, the authors must provide a statement within the text of the manuscript indicating that they conducted experiments in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration (see <http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/>) or similar ethical guidelines. Another source of guidance on research ethics can be found by accessing the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals*, as defined and prepared by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (www.icmje.org). Additional guidelines can also be found by reading *Protection of Human Subjects*, 28 CFR Part 46 (<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/28/46>).

Any personally identifiable information (PII) collected as research data, which would include names, initials, hospital numbers, autopsy numbers, and other identifiable material and samples (e.g., fingerprints, blood, saliva, hair, DNA, handwriting) should not be published with written descriptions, photographs, or pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes or the person, legal guardian, or next of kin provides written informed consent for publication. In essence, all nonessential identifying details should be omitted. This is done to minimize a participant's concerns over the use of his or her samples or data.

If the study was deemed to be exempt from IRB approval and review [see 28 CFR 46.101 (b)(1)-(6) for exemption definitions], this must be clearly stated and explained within the manuscript (typically within the Materials and Methods section). If doubt exists whether the research was conducted in accordance with the guidelines mentioned above, the editor reserves the right to request more detailed documentation from authors. This documentation must explain the authors' rationale for deviation from accepted ethical practices. If this explanation is not satisfactory to members of the editorial board, the editor reserves the right to reject the manuscript.

Informed Consent

All volunteers who submit samples of biological origin (samples that are considered personally identifiable information) or participate in research experiments should be provided with a written informed consent form in accordance with 28 CFR 46.117, *Documentation of Informed Consent* (<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/28/46>). All research donors or volunteers must voluntarily sign the informed consent form prior to beginning the research project. A statement that all volunteers received written informed consent, understood all of the benefits and risks associated with the research, and signed the form should be included in the manuscript (typically within the Materials and Methods section).

The content of the informed consent form should follow recommendations in 28 CFR 46.116, *General Requirements for Informed Consent*. Signed informed consent forms must be available upon request to the editor of the *Journal of Forensic Identification*.