

Participant Information Sheet

Participant Information

I would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide to take part, you need to understand why the study is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Ask questions if anything you read is not clear or you would like more information about. Take time to decide whether to take part. Your contribution is valued though participation is entirely voluntary. Your data will be kept securely and any data you give will be presented anonymously.

What is the Study About? (What are you researching?)

My research project is about counsellors' perspectives on working with adult autistic clients experiencing bereavement.

I am looking to find out what communication adaptations should be considered, and what these may be. In addition, I am looking to find out what benefits, if any, can be found from the use of creative intervention when working therapeutically with autistic adults experiencing bereavement.

Why is the study being carried out? (Explain why you are doing this study)

I am carrying out this study to gain a greater understanding, from a counsellor's perspective, on the best way to support adult autistic clients experiencing bereavement. I believe there is a gap in the current research on the best practice in offering this support. I will conclude my findings from semi-structured interviews. I am

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hoping to gain insight into the use of creative interventions when working with this client group, which may lead to further research.

What would you do if you agree to participate in the study? (Would the participant be interviewed, observed or complete a questionnaire?)

As a participant in this project, you will be asked to take part in a semi-structured

interview using Microsoft Teams, lasting no longer than one hour. You will be asked 10 questions regarding your experience as a counsellor working with adult autistic clients experiencing bereavement. You will be emailed the questions a week before the interview.

If I receive interest from more than four participants, I will randomly select four participants via Google's random select generator. This will be done to ensure an unbiased selection. If selected, you will be emailed a consent form, upon completion I will liaise with you to arrange a suitable time and date during college hours for the interview, which will take place on Microsoft Teams.

By using an online platform, there will be no geographical restrictions within the UK. I will use a qualitative methodology to document the answers through audio recording and transcription. The recordings will be stored on a password protected laptop which I have sole access to, with only myself and supervisor having access to your anonymised data. All data will be kept until my project has been accessed and marked, when it will then be electronically destroyed within 12 months. There is no requirement for you to use your real name or have your camera on whilst the interview is conducted. The written transcript and final write up will have no identifying information present. After the interview has been completed, I will contact you within a week as a follow up check in. I will also provide any signposting support. There will be payment for your

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participation, however, a copy of the final submitted project will be made available for you to read should you like.

Do you have to take part?

No participation is entirely voluntary. If you do decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form to show you agreed to do so. You are free to withdraw at any time, but no later than 4 weeks before the project/dissertation hand in date, which is 09/03/27 without giving a reason and without fear or favour. If you withdraw, then any evidence/data collected

form you will not be used and will be destroyed.

Researcher Contact details:

Hazel Edwards

Researcher Email address:

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Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.