

# “An exploration of families in which sibling sexual abuse occurs”

I am a student at the University of Northampton, where I am completing an MSc in Counselling Children and Young People. I am conducting a piece of research into factors in the wider family where sibling sexual abuse occurs. In order to understand the wider family landscape in families where sibling sexual abuse is present I will be interviewing Child Safeguarding Professionals who have worked with at least one such family.

**What is involved?**

If you agree to participate I will book a time and date convenient to you for an interview lasting not more than one hour. The interview will take place in the place that is most convenient to you, and in which you feel most comfortable. Due to the nature of the subject to be discussed a confidential, sound-proofed room will be used for the interview. I can interview you at your place to work or other convenient, private office. A Lone Working policy will be put in place if you leave your usual place of work for the interview.

**Do I have to take part?**

Your participation in this research is voluntary and you may withdraw your consent to participate at any point before, or during the interview. You can also refuse to answer any question, and to request a break if you feel distressed or uncomfortable and any time. Your interview will be transcribed and you can withdraw your data from the study at any point up until 1st September 2019.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Sibling sexual abuse is under-researched and this piece of work will explore how understanding factors in families where sibling sexual abuse is present can be used to inform therapy interventions in working with these families.

**What are the possible risks of taking part?**

Interview questions will be focused on the wider family as opposed to incidents of abuse. However, the subject matter may cause you to be distressed which is why all participants must be professionals currently working in Child Safeguarding with professional supervision in place.

If you are concerned or distressed during the interview please notify the researcher and ask her to stop the interview.There are also services who can help if you feel distressed:

* Samaritans: 0845 790 990
* Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (for abuse survivors and other affected people): 0808 802 9999
* Your GP
* NHS Direct: 111

**How is confidentiality maintained?**

All data is anonymised. Personal details relating to you and to the family members you discuss will not be taken. You will be asked to please not use the real names of any person whom you discuss in the interview – audio recordings with real names in them will be destroyed the same day as the interview takes place.

**What happens during the interview?**

You will be reminded that you can withdraw from the interview at any time. You will be shown a definition of the term ‘sibling sexual abuse’ and asked a series of semi-structured questions on your experiences of families where this kind of abuse is, or has, been present. Your interview will be audio-recorded and subsequently transcribed.

**What happens to my data?**

GDPR (2018) guidance will be followed. All electronic data will be stored within password protected folders and one password protected devices. All paper work will be stored in lockable cabinets, not stored beyond three years and destroyed securely. Your anonymous data will be used to form some of the research of a dissertation submitted to the University of Northampton as part of an MSc in Counselling Children and Young People. This may be academically published at a later date.

Your data will be stored anonymously with no links to identifying information relating to you. Your data can only be accessed by the Researcher, Dissertation Supervisor and possibly internal and external examiners.

**Contact information**

If you have any questions about the study, or would like to make contact with me, I can be reached at:

Email: bethanwaters@hotmail.com

**What if something goes wrong?**

This study is being supervised by Claire Harrison-Breed. If you have concerns about the study, or would like to speak to my supervisor, she can be reached at:

Email: Claire.Harrison-Breed@northampton.ac.uk

**Who has reviewed this study?**

sThis study has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty of Health and Society Research Ethics Committee at the University of Northampton.