



University of Brighton

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**UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX**

LIVING TOGETHER APART PROJECT INFORMATION

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

We are a collaborative team of researchers from Sociology, Gender Studies, Law, and Education, working at Sussex and Brighton Universities. We are interested in developing understanding of peoples' experiences of being part of a former intimate relationship with children, all living in the same space, now 'Living Together Apart' (LTA). There has been little research in this area and we wanted to gather stories about what it is/was like sharing a home with a former partner – whatever the reasons. Reasons might include children or other dependents, but also housing or financial constraints, alongside other factors.

WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE?

We have advertised our research on a number of social media platforms and professional contexts and you have read information about our project.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART?

It is completely up to you whether or not you submit a story to us. If you want to, you will need to confirm your consent on our LTA Stories website page. You can withdraw your story for a month after you have submitted it, and we will destroy your data. This is because we will be analysing and writing about your data throughout the project. Please email the project contact Liz McDonnell (ejm33@sussex.ac.uk), if you wish to withdraw your data.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IF I TAKE PART?

After you have written your story and sent it to us, you will not be required to do anything further. If you have opted to have your story placed on our blog, it is important that you know that we will anonymise your story (take out any personally identifying details relating to you or anyone you talk about) and we reserve the right to remove any offensive, illegal or unethical content. We will keep those stories on our blog until the end of August 2020. You can withdraw your stories from the blog at any time.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?

You may find it beneficial to share your experiences about being part of a LTA family e.g. it may be cathartic, or helpful to reflect and create a story about your situation and how you feel about it. For those who choose to put their story on our blog, you may want other people to read about your experiences in an anonymous way.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS OF TAKING PART?

We hope that you will find telling your story an enjoyable and satisfying experience, but there is a possibility that it may evoke upsetting or distressing emotions. If this happens and you would like to seek some help, advice or support, please contact organisations such as the Samaritans (www.samaritans.org / Tel: 08457 909090), MIND (www.mind.org.uk / Tel: 0300 123 3393), Family Lives Tel: 08088002222 (<https://www.familylives.org.uk/about/our-vision-and-mission/>) or your local General Practitioner.

WILL MY INFORMATION IN THIS STUDY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

We will store your stories securely and confidentially and are required to keep them for 10 years after we have published from them. After that time, we will destroy your data. We will not share your stories with anyone else and we will handle your data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WANT TO TAKE PART?

If you want to take part, you need to submit a story on the webpage where you downloaded this document.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH STUDY?

We will be analysing your stories throughout the project. We hope to publish articles from them and to present the findings at conferences. We will make sure that all quotations we use from your stories will be fully anonymised. We will put a summary of the findings on our website when they are complete.

WHO HAS APPROVED THIS STUDY?

The research has been approved by the Social Sciences & Arts Cross-Schools Research Ethics Committee (C-REC). The project reference number is ER/EJM33/6.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For any further information about the project please contact Liz McDonnell (ejm33@sussex.ac.uk). If you have concerns about the way in which the study has been conducted, you should contact the Deputy Chair of the C-REC above at (c-recss@sussex.ac.uk).

INSURANCE

University of Sussex has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.

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

DATE

1st August 2018