

Consent Form

Introducing the research team

This research is carried out through the *Séparation parentale, recomposition familiale* Research Partnership at Laval University. This project was built upon a collaborative framework: it involves six researchers and students (in political science at Laval University, in social work at UQO, and in civil law at the University of Ottawa) as well as Quebec's Ministry of Justice and the *Coalition des familles LGBT du Québec*. Members of those two organizations were involved in the development of the project and the conception of the interview guide. They will also be involved in the validation and distribution of the results. This project is under the supervision of Émilie Biland-Curinier (Laval University). The interviews will be carried by this professor, along with Joanie Bouchard (PhD candidate at Laval University) and Flavy Barrette (Master student at UQO).

Before agreeing to take part to this project, please take the time to read and understand the following information. This document explains the purpose of this research project, its process, benefits, risks, and drawbacks. We invite you to ask any questions you may find useful to the person presenting this document.

Nature of the Study

This project focuses on LGBTQ+ parents who have experienced a marital dissolution or a reorganization of their daily arrangements with the other parent(s) of their child(ren). It will also document family blending in an LGBTQ+ context. To do so, new partners will also be met. This project aims to analyze individuals' relationship with law, legal professionals and Courts when they face marital dissolutions or parental conflicts.

Course of Participation

Your participation to this research consists in an interview, lasting about two hours [one and a half for new partners], which will focus on:

- information about the respondent, their family and their environment;
- elements on their life before the marital dissolution or the modification of their daily organization with the other parent(s);
- elements on how the marital dissolution or modification of the daily organization with the other parent(s) occurred;
- information on the current situation of the respondent;
- sociodemographic profile of the respondent.

A focus group will be organized with 8 LGBTQ+ parents to discuss the preliminary results of the research. No nominative information or any information that would allow anyone to identify you will be communicated during the session.

It is possible that a member of the team will contact you by email to obtain additional information after the interview if your court file has changed since then, or if the person you met has omitted some questions. This new contact would allow us to report on it as part of the research project.

Benefits, Risks and Possible Drawbacks Related to your Participation to the Study

Participating in this research gives you an opportunity to reflect and discuss, in complete confidentiality, your family history and how you have experienced your marital dissolution, the modification of your daily organization with the other parent(s) or a family blending. Your testimony will contribute to the advancement of knowledge, and will be shared with partner organizations, including Quebec's Ministry of Justice and the *Coalition des familles LGBT du Québec*. Recommendations will also be formulated in order to make our institutions more inclusive.

Telling your story may give rise to moving or uncomfortable thoughts or memories. If it happens, do not hesitate to tell the person conducting the interview. You may, at any time, refuse to answer a question or put an end to your answer without having to provide an explanation.

A document containing the address of several help resources that you can contact if necessary is attached to this form.

Voluntary Participation and Right of Withdrawal

You are free to participate to this research project. You can also put an end to your participation without consequences or prejudice and without having to justify your decision. If you decide to do so, it is important to reach the researcher whose contact details are included in this document. All your personal information will then be destroyed.

Privacy and data management

Proper arrangements will be deployed to ensure the confidentiality of the information provided by the participants:

- The names of the participants will not appear in any reports ;
- Research documents will be coded and only members of the research team will have access to the list of names and codes ;
- Participants' individual results will never be shared ;
- Research materials will be locked up at Laval University or UQO. Computer data (including records) will be password protected and will transit on a secure server. They will be destroyed eight years after the end of the research, in January 2028 ;
- The preliminary results of the research will be subjected to a validation exercise by members of the LGBTQ+ community. No participant will be identified during this session ;
- The research will be published in scientific journals and papers as well as information material directed at members of the LGBTQ+ community as well as legal and community stakeholders. No participant will be identified;

Compensation

An amount of \$25 (or \$40 if babysitting is required) will be provided to offset the costs incurred by your participation in this research project.

Thanks

Your collaboration is invaluable for us to carry out this study and we thank you for participating.

Signatures

I, _____, freely agree to participate in the research entitled: “LGBTQ+ Individuals’ Family Rights after Conjugal Separations”. I have read this form and I understand the purpose, nature, advantages, risks, and disadvantages of the research project. I am satisfied with the explanations, clarifications, and answers that the researcher provided me, if any, regarding my participation in this project.

Signature of the participant

Date

A short summary of the results will be sent to the participants who request it by indicating the address where they would like to receive the document. Results will not be available until June 2020. If your address changes meanwhile, you are invited to notice the researcher.

The address (electronic or postal) to which I wish to receive a short summary of the results of the research is as follows:

I explained the purpose, nature, benefits, risks, and drawbacks of the research project to the participant. I responded to the best of my knowledge to the questions asked and made sure that the participant understood what the project implies.

Signature of the researcher

Date

Additional Information

If you have questions about the research, what your participation implies or if you want to withdraw from the research, please contact Émilie Biland-Curinier, associate professor at Laval University, at the following phone number: (418) 656-2131 ext. 2388 (this is the number of the coordinators of the Research Partnership, Caroline Robitaille, who will forward your message to Mrs. Biland-Curinier), or to the following email address: emilie.biland@pol.ulaval.ca.

Complaint or criticism

Any complaints or criticism of this research project may be addressed to the Office of the Ombudsman from Laval University:

Alphonse-Desjardins, Suite 3320

2325, rue de l'Université

Université Laval

Quebec (Quebec) G1V 0A6

Information - Secretariat: (418) 656-3081

Toll Free: 1-866-323-2271

Fax: (418) 656-3846

Email: info@ombudsman.ulaval.ca

This project has been approved by Laval University's ethic comity (Comité d'éthique de la recherche de l'Université Laval): Approbation number 2018-227 A-2 / 04-03-2019.

Participant's copy

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND THEIR PARTNER(S)

People in distress (emergency)

-Crisis centers in Quebec: <https://www.credefund.ca/listecentres>

For people who need general psychosocial services (without emergency):

- Refer to the nearest CLSC:

<http://sante.gouv.qc.ca/repertoire-ressources/clsc/>

RESOURCES SPECIFICALLY DEDICATED TO MARITAL DISSOLUTION AND FAMILY MIXING

Community (psychosocial services):

<http://www.fafmrq.org/membres/>

<https://www.familleslgbt.org/>

Legal Aid Offices:

<https://www.csj.qc.ca/commission-des-services-juridiques/nous-joindre/bureaux-d-aide-juridique/fr>

Community Justice Centers:

<https://www.justicedeproximite.qc.ca/>

SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND HELP ONLINE AND BY TELEPHONE

Toolbox for parents and parents-in-law:

www.arucfamille.ulaval.ca

Legal information:

www.educaloi.qc.ca

Help and information by phone:

Children First: 1 800 361-8453

First Resource, Parental Help: 1-866-329-4223