**Consent to Participate in a Research Study for people who are Currently Incarcerated**

**Title: PRISM Project: Are Prison Libraries Motivators of Pro-social Behaviors and Successful Re-entry?**

This study will work to understand the outcomes of prison library services, speaking with people who are currently incarcerated and those who were formerly incarcerated to learn about their use of the library. This study will also look at how library use might have impacted residents while they were in prison and their re-entry after release. This study will examine the outcomes of library services in prisons.

**Researchers:** Primary Investigator: Charissa Brammer, Colorado State Library, brammer\_c@cde.state.co.us 201 E. Colfax Ave, Room 309, Denver CO 80203

Members of the Institutional Library Development and Library Research Service offices at the Colorado State Library, and Remerg.

**What is this study about and why are you doing it?**

The PRISM project is assessing prison library services and the impact that libraries have on the lives of people who are incarcerated, both during their period of incarceration and after they are released. Researchers will be holding focus groups with dozens of current and former residents of Colorado State funded prisons to learn about their library experiences and will distribute surveys to patrons of prison libraries to learn about their experiences. We are centering the voice of people who are and have been incarcerated and are or were library users while incarcerated.

**What are you asking me to do if I agree to be in the study?**

If you agree to be in the study as a focus group participant, you will meet with a small group of fellow incarcerated people and researchers to answer some questions about your experience with prison libraries. This meeting will be recorded. The focus groups will take approximately 1 hour, there will be two to three researchers in each focus group, one asking questions and at least one taking notes on responses and managing the recording.

**How will this study help me?**

There will be no direct benefit to you from this study, but food will be provided to you during the focus group interviews. You will also get to play a part in improving prison library services in your facility and across Colorado.

**Why should I be in the study?**

The results from this study will help us better understand the ways that libraries are used in prison facilities, both where they are succeeding and where they can be improved. This study will also provide data to people working in prison libraries across the country, to better understand the benefits of prison libraries. It is important that we speak with as many people as possible to represent the many backgrounds and points of view that exist.

**Are there any risks to participation in this study and how will you mitigate those risks?**

There are not any risks to participation in this study that we are aware of. There is a chance that some of the questions might cause discomfort, and you are welcome not to answer those questions or to leave the focus group at any time, for any reason.

We will protect your personally identifiable information, but there is a risk that it could be accidentally revealed – we have detailed protections in place to ensure that your personal information will only be seen by members of the research team who work at the Colorado State Library and one transcription service who is bound by a privacy policy.

**What else do I need to know?**

Your decision on whether to be in this study is voluntary.

You may refuse to be in this study at any time and you will not face any negative consequences for refusing to be in this study at any time.

Your decision to participate or not participate will not impact your conditions of incarceration and will not impact your release date or parole eligibility.

**Who can I contact with questions or concerns?**

You may contact the researcher, Charissa Brammer at 720-648-2948, [brammer\_c@cde.state.co.us](mailto:brammer_c@cde.state.co.us), 201 E. Colfax Ave, Room 309, Denver CO 80203 with any questions that you might have about this study.

**Participant’s Agreement:**

I have read the above information (or it has been read to me). The study has been explained to me. My questions have been answered. I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

Signature:

Written Name:

Date:

If assisted with the form, the information for the person assisting:

Signature:

Written name:

Date: