



DRS. JOHN S. AND BETTY J. SCHUCHMAN
DEAF DOCUMENTARY CENTER

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Project Title: Deaf NYC: Signs of Change

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We, the Director and co-Director of the Drs. John S. and Betty J. Schuchman Deaf Documentary Center at Gallaudet University, are conducting research on deaf life in New York City. With this document, we are asking you to consider participating in a research study. The purpose of the study is to learn more about the history and culture of the NYC Deaf community.

This Study:

What am I asked to do? You will be asked to share your stories of life in New York City. Interviews will be filmed by a small crew. You will be asked questions about home, family relations, school, and work life, organizations of deaf people, religious affiliations and events, language use with deaf and hearing people, technology use, humor and entertainment, and access. You can choose to answer or not answer any question. If you have any historic photographs, documents or objects that you wish to show on camera, please let us know.

How long will it take? It is anticipated that your participation will take approximately 90 minutes, however, interviews vary widely in length. Some take only 15 minutes, others are up to 2 hours. Throughout the interview the team will ask if a break is needed and you can stop the interview at any time.

Will I be paid? No payments will be made for any interview. Your personal story is valuable to the research, but payment puts interviewees in a performance role. Sharing of your story is entirely voluntary.

Language: The interviewer will accommodate your preference for language and communication style. Please let me know about any particular communication requirements for either the pre-interview arrangement conversations or the interview itself.

Risks: As with any interview about an individual's past, there is a risk that unpleasant memories may be raised.

Benefits: Your participation in this study will enable researchers and others to better understand the impact of city-dwelling on deaf people.

Confidentiality: Your interview will not be confidential. This project will help a wide variety of people better understand deaf community life. Upon completion of this study, the footage will eventually become part of the Gallaudet University Archives where it will be available to researchers and documentarians for further use. Access to your interview will be unlimited and it may be viewable in online formats. Your name will be attached to the interview. Your current address, phone or VP number, and Email address will not be included with your interview.

Voluntary Participation: Your participation in this study is voluntary. If you decide not to participate in the study, your relationship with Gallaudet University will not change in any way. You may withdraw from the study at any time before or during the interview, for any reason.

Results: If requested, you will be given a digital copy of your interview.

Contacting the Researcher: Contact the researcher if you have questions about any risk to you due to participation in this study. Use the videophone, phone number or E-mail account at the top of this consent form.

Intent to Participate: If you agree to participate, read the following, print and sign your name below, and enter the date.

I have read the ***Informed Consent Form*** and agree to participate in the study conducted by The Drs. John S. & Betty J. Schuchman Deaf Documentary Center under the supervision of Brian Greenwald and/or Jean Bergey. I understand that I can withdraw from this study at any time. I understand that I will not receive payment or reimbursement for my participation.

Your Name

Your Signature

Date