



Red Spruce

MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE

Consent Form for Short Evaluative Survey - Client

You are invited to participate in a web-based online survey on your experience with Red Spruce Mental Health Centre's services. This research project is being conducted by Dr. Tanya Surette, Associate Professor & Program Coordinator of the M.Ed. Counselling Program at Acadia University. It should take approximately 7 minutes to complete. The survey questions will ask you to assess a brief overview of your symptoms after counselling services using a simple rating scale. You will also be offered an opportunity to add more context to your rating if you would like to do so. You will be asked about your experiences with inclusion, accessibility, and your counsellor at Red Spruce Mental Health Centre.

No conflicts of interest were identified for the research being conducted. In the event that Dr. Tanya Surette is also providing supervision to the intern you will work with, another faculty will oversee all data collection for the duration of the placement. Any findings from survey results will be used to improve the services at Red Spruce and will not be used as performance evaluations for researchers or students. As such there is no risk of financial harm or benefit to researchers. Outcome data may be used for applications for funding at provincial or national levels to support the sustainability of services provided at the Red Spruce centre. When data is used for funding purposes, no identifying information will be shared, and data will only be reported in a combined format. The researchers have no financial stake in the research collected at the Red Spruce.

PARTICIPATION

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. You may refuse to take part in the research or exit the survey at any time without consequence. You are free to decline to answer any question you do not wish to reply. This survey is anonymous so once you hit send at the conclusion there is no way to remove your data from the study. Agreeing or declining to complete the survey will have no impact on your access to counselling services.

BENEFITS

You will receive no direct benefits from participating in this research study. However, your

responses may help us learn more about the effectiveness, inclusivity, and accessibility of the Red Spruce Mental Health Centre's services.

RISKS

The possible risks or discomforts of the survey are minimal. You may feel tired or sad if reflecting upon your mental health symptoms is taxing. The questions themselves are simple and do not ask you to dive deep. You will be asked to identify and rate your symptoms before and after counselling, and to provide ratings for your experience with the accessibility, inclusivity, and effectiveness of the counselling services you received at Red Spruce Mental Health Centre. You will be asked questions about your identity and feeling of inclusion (or lack thereof) at Red Spruce Mental Health Centre. If inclusion has been a negative experience, you may experience discomfort recalling that information to reply to the survey questions. If at any point in participating in the study you would like to receive counselling from an alternative resource, referrals will be provided to you by the intern or the supervisor.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Upon closure of your counselling, a link for the survey will be sent to you. Data will be stored in a password-protected electronic format. The link to the survey will lead you to a Limesurvey where you will complete the 7-minute survey. Limesurvey will not collect identifying information such as your name, email address, or IP address. As such, your responses are completely anonymous, and no one will be able to identify you or know you completed the survey. The results of the survey will be combined with other surveys completed. As survey results are combined, individual clients/participants could not be identified as no identifying information is attached to any survey results. Results will be stored electronically using password protection. After annual reports for the Red Spruce Mental Health Centre are completed, the summaries from the surveys for that calendar year will be destroyed. Due to the anonymous nature of these surveys, there are no limitations to confidentiality (for example in the event of imminent risk of harm) because there is no possibility for researchers to know a respondent's identity.

Employers may have legal access to any information sent or stored on employer-owned equipment. Participants may therefore wish to use their own equipment, if available, when

communicating with the researchers and completing the surveys. Any information sent or stored online may be legally accessed by domestic or foreign authorities. Designated employees of the survey company (in this case, Limesurvey) have access to raw survey data as needed to perform their duties and in accordance with the company's privacy policy. Should you choose not to complete the survey and close your browser, Limesurvey will retain responses provided. For this reason, incomplete surveys will not be included in the research.

CONTACT

If you have questions at any time about the research that this survey is a part of or any of the procedures, you may contact me, Dr. Tanya Surette, via phone at 902-585-1363 or email at tanya.surette@acadiau.ca.

If you feel you have not been treated according to the descriptions in this form, or that your rights as a participant in research have not been honored during this project, or you have any questions, concerns, or complaints that you wish to address to someone other than the investigator, you may contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Board at Acadia University, Dr. Stephen Maitzen, by email at smaitzen@acadiau.ca or by phone at 902-585-1407.

Please note that consenting to participate in this survey does not waive your rights to legal recourse in the event of research-related harm.

ELECTRONIC CONSENT:

If you have read and understood the above information, please complete the next section by selecting your choice. You may type in "Agree," which confirms your participation in this research study, or "Disagree," which removes you from the study, and the survey will not be sent to you. You may print a copy of this consent form for your records. by consenting, participants have not waived their rights in the event of research related harm.

Typing "Agree" in the space below indicates that:

I have read and understood the above information

I voluntarily agree to participate

TYPE YOUR ANSWER HERE: