**SAMPLE MINOR ASSENT FORM**

***This document is the preferred template for your actual Minor Assent Form. The information in this sample form MUST be included with the Parental Consent Form submitted to IRB for review. You may choose your own format if desired.***

In March of 1983 the Department of Health and Human Services issued further human subject regulations pertaining to children, entitled "Additional Protection for Children Involved as Subjects in Research" (45CFR46-Subpart D). The use of the term “minor” within this document and others created by UMU refer to any person under the age of 18-years-old.

These regulations governing children (minors) in research situations decree that investigators need to take into consideration age, maturity, and psychological state of the participating minor and include them in the consent form; and the investigator must solicit the assent of younger children. The regulation defines "assent" as the minor's affirmative agreement to participate. "Mere failure to object should not, absent affirmative agreement, be construed as assent."

The following items should be addressed in an assent procedure (represented by an assent form, or by a prepared script of the explanation to be tendered), using language appropriate to the minor's age and/or developmental level:

1. Why the minor is asked to participate.

1. What is going to take place from the minor's point of view.

1. The risk to the minor.

1. The benefit to the minor.

1. Identification of the researcher by name and telephone number in case questions should arise.

1. In non-therapeutic research, a statement that the minor has a choice to participate or to withdraw at any time without negative consequences.

1. A statement that the minor may retain a copy of the assent form.

1. Date and signature lines for the researcher and, if appropriate, for the minor.