



<b>Internal Regulation Title</b>	Utilizing PhotoVoice as a Research Technique				
<b>Date Last Revised</b>		<b>Date Created</b>	10/09/2019	<b>Revision #</b>	
<b>Regulation Number</b>	3	<b>Required by:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> OHRP <input type="checkbox"/> Funding Agency <input type="checkbox"/> OLAW		
<b>Applicability</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> RGC Internal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Researcher <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional				
<b>Subgroup</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NKU Compliance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IRB <input type="checkbox"/> IACUC <input type="checkbox"/> IBC				

### 1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this internal regulation is to describe the process for human subjects research utilizing PhotoVoice as a research technique.

### 2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION AND SCOPE

Some researchers use a method of qualitative data collection in which participants take photographs of some aspect(s) of their lives such as their environment, community, etc. The photographs are then used as a basis for group discussions and to elicit important qualitative information about the photographer’s attitudes, beliefs, etc. The degree of risk to subjects in such research depends, in part, on what is photographed. For example, this process may pose the risk of self-incrimination to subjects who photograph themselves taking part in certain activities.

### 3.0 DETAILS

1. The “human subjects” in the research are the research participants who are taking the photographs and then presenting their interpretation in group or other data gathering sessions.
2. If the participants (photographers) are minors, then written parental permission and assent is required for their participation in the research.

#### A. PHOTOGRAPHING PEOPLE

1. Although the individuals whose photos are taken are not the subjects of the research, there may be legal requirements for obtaining permission for using their photographs.
2. If the participant (photographers) take photos of other people in a non-public location or in a place where people might expect privacy, then permission to use the photo should be obtained. This permission form must be uploaded into Mentor IRB.
3. If the person being photographed is a minor, then permission to take the photo must be obtained from the child’s parent or guardian. This may be included as a checkbox on the parental permission form. This permission form must be uploaded in Mentor IRB.
4. If the photographs will be publicly displayed, such as at a professional meeting or community gathering, or used in manuals or brochures or other publications, then written permission to take and display the photograph is required to be displayed publicly.
5. Researcher must have a method to link pictures with the signed permission forms.
6. Neither the participant nor third parties in the photos may waive their rights to the photos (commonly referred to as a “release”). Instead of using “release” language in agreements or forms, ask permission to take and use photos.

7. Those being photographed must be informed about how their photo will be used, and whether they will have the opportunity to view the photo before making a final decision about its use. This decision is up to the researcher.

## B. POTENTIAL ILLICIT OR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

1. The researcher should be clear about whether participants (photographers) are permitted to photograph illicit or illegal activity.
2. The researcher must contact the Legal Affairs office for advice and guidance before allowing the photographing of illicit or illegal activity.

## C. LOCATIONS

1. Participants (photographers) should be cautious of photographing subjects in high-crime areas.
2. It is highly discouraged for the photos to be taken in places that could be seen as private. If the researcher allows the participant (photographer) to take pictures in a private location, permission must be granted as mentioned in section A.

## D. GENERAL INFORMATION

Non-IRB related things to consider:

- Who will provide the camera?
- How will the pictures be printed and who is responsible for the cost?
- Will participants use their own camera or phone?
  - If so, how will the photos be given to the researcher?
- The researcher must decide if:
  - Photographs of people are allowed.
  - The participant (photographer) is allowed use photographs taken in the past instead of taking new photographs
- Researchers should instruct participants, at every meeting, not to take photographs that indict, stigmatize, embarrass, or shame individuals or groups.
- How will the photos be labeled?
- What type of training will the participants (photographers) have to go through in order to be ready to implement this type of research?

## 4.0 REFERENCES/RESOURCES

[\*Practical Guidance and Ethical Considerations for Studies Using Photo-Elicitation Interviews\*](#)  
[\*PhotoVoice: Conducting Community-Based Participatory Research and Advocacy in Mental Health\*](#)

## 5.0 FORMS OR ATTACHMENTS

## 6.0 DEFINITIONS

Title	Approved	Date Approved	Not Applicable
Manager of Research Compliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11/06/2019	<input type="checkbox"/>
IRB Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11/06/2019	<input type="checkbox"/>
NKU Legal Affairs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11/06/2019	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institutional Official	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Revisions

Title	Approved	Date Approved	N/A	Summary
Manager of Research Compliance	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
IACUC Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Institutional Official	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	