

About the *Moving in Foster Care* Project

The goal of our project is to gain a better understanding about how foster care placement moves during childhood affect a person later in life.

The main project researcher is Dr. Yvonne Unrau, Associate Professor, at the School of Social Work, Western Michigan University. She is assisted by Kristin Putney, Master of Social Work (MSW) student and Foster Parent, Chris Hindbaugh, MSW student, and Alexis Ruthenbeck, BSW student.

To qualify as a participant, you must be:

- ✓ At least 18 years old
- ✓ No longer be in foster care
- ✓ Have lived in two or more placements while in care.

We want to hear from you—in your own words—about how you remember your moves to different foster care placements. We invite you to be interviewed by trained researchers. Interviews will last 30 to 40 minutes and are confidential. You may be interviewed by telephone or in person. You may also answer our questions in an anonymous survey, if you prefer.

To date, research on placement changes has not included the views or opinions of people who lived through multiple foster care moves. We want to learn more about placement moves from people who experienced them.



Did you live in more than one foster care placement during your childhood?

Do you have something to say about your moves in care?



Contact the

“Moving in Foster Care” Research Project

Principal Researcher
Yvonne Unrau

Student Researchers
Kristin Putney, Alexis Ruthenbeck
and Chris Hindbaugh

To learn more call: 269-271-5216



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

School of Social Work



What can I expect if I decide to participate?

How will the researchers contact me?

The *Moving in Foster Care* Project is voluntary. There are 2 ways for you to make contact with our research team: (1) You may be contacted by a former foster parent, or someone who knows that you lived in foster care. That person may ask you permission to give your first name and telephone number to us. We would then call you. (2) You may call us at 269-217-5216 after hearing about the project or reading this flyer.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be invited to participate in a 30–40 minute interview. One or two trained researchers will conduct the interview. You may choose to be interviewed by telephone or in person. A third option is that you can ask for the list of interview questions to complete on your own, and then mail your responses to us.

What kinds of questions will I be asked?

You will be asked questions about your age, gender, race, how old you were when you entered and exited foster care, and how many placements you had. Other questions focus on what you remember about moving from one foster care placement to another, and what you learned from those experiences. You will be asked your ideas about what foster parents and workers should do when a foster child moves from one home to another. *You will not be asked any questions about the reasons why you entered foster care.*

Do I have to answer all the interview questions?

No. You may choose to not answer a question or quit the interview at any time.

How will my interview answers be recorded?

A main interest of the project is to hear from you in your own words. Your interviewer will make every effort to record your answers as you say them. You may choose one of three options to record your responses. (1) Tape-recording: in-person interviews can be recorded using a tape recorder. Your name would not be used on the recording. Once your recorded interview is transcribed to paper, the audiotape will be destroyed. You maintain the right to stop and start the tape recording any time during the interview. (2) Note-taking: in-person and telephone interviews may be typed into a computer word processor by the interviewer. To make sure that the notes are accurate, your interviewer may read back some answers to you. (3) Write your own answers: you can request a copy of the study questions and answer them on your own (without a researcher present).

Will my answer be kept confidential?

Yes. All information collected from you is confidential. That means names of people, programs agencies, or any identifying information will not appear on any papers that record your interview information. Your interviewer will ask that you not use full names of people or organizations to protect the privacy of others. And, you may choose to make up a name for yourself for the interview if you wish. We will not reveal your identity as a participant to anyone.

What are the risks of participation?

As in all research, there may be unforeseen risks to the participant. One possible risk of participation is that you may be upset by the content of the interview. If this were to happen we would remind you that it is perfectly OK to stop answering a question or to quit the interview at any time. Also, if you report information that leads the researcher to suspect that a child is currently at risk for abuse or neglect, then the researcher will share that information with the local Child Protection Authority. The researcher would inform you of the decision to make such a report.

What are the benefits of participation?

Some people find it helpful to talk about their past experience so that others can learn from it. You may request a copy of the project's findings (expected in Fall 2006). The results will also be shared with foster care providers and researchers. We hope to improve understanding about the impact of placement moves on the young adults who have lived in foster care, so that foster care services can be improved to better serve children.

How do I participate?

Make contact with the [Moving in Foster Care project](#) in two ways.

1) Give permission to someone you know to contact us with your first name and phone number. A member of the research team will then call you to schedule an interview.

~ or ~

2) Call us yourself. The person to contact is [Kristin Putney](#). You can reach her by phone [269-271-5216](#), or e-mail Kristin.S.Putney@wmich.edu.

We hope to hear from you!

*Yvonne, Kristin, Alexis, and Chris
Research Team*

Learn more about the [Moving in Foster Care Project](#) - Call Kristin at [269-271-5216](#).

This research project has been approved by the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (HSIRB) at Western Michigan University for one year, starting February 8, 2006. You may contact the Principal Researcher Yvonne Unrau (269-387-3185), the Chair of the HSIRB Board (269-387-8293) or the Vice President for Research (269-387-8298) if questions or problems arise during the course of the study.