

**INFORMED CONSENT**  
**The University of South Dakota**

**TITLE:** Fear of Recurrence, Adversity, and Pain

**PROJECT DIRECTOR:** Christopher R. Berghoff, Ph.D.

**PHONE #:** 605-658-3710

**DEPARTMENT:** Psychology

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?**

You are invited to participate in a research study that examines the relationship of childhood adversity, pain, and fear of cancer recurrence. You were selected as a possible participant because you are 18 years of age or older and received a cancer diagnosis in adulthood (18 years of age or older).

The purpose of this research study is to identify how adversity relates to pain and fear of cancer recurrence among adult cancer survivors.

**HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL PARTICIPATE?**

Approximately 900 individuals may complete this study.

**HOW LONG WILL I BE IN THIS STUDY?**

Your participation in the study will last approximately 30 minutes.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THIS STUDY?**

All parts of the study are presented online at the secure study website, [www.MyMindfulDays.com](http://www.MyMindfulDays.com). First, you will be asked to review the Informed Consent document (this form) and provide your consent to participate in the study. If you consent, you will be complete a 30-minute online survey that will ask about your personal characteristics (e.g., age, relationship status, cancer-related questions), childhood adversity, pain, and fear of cancer recurrence.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF THE STUDY?**

There may be some risk from being in this study. You may experience frustration that is often experienced when completing surveys. Some questions may be of a sensitive nature (i.e., trauma, abuse, sexual misconduct), and therefore you may become upset as a result. However, these risks are not viewed as being in excess of “minimal risk.”

Nonetheless, if you become upset, you may stop participation at any time or choose not to answer a question. If you would like to talk to someone about your feelings regarding this study, you are encouraged to contact the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, which is a free, confidential, 24/7, 365-day-a-year treatment referral and information service (in English and Spanish) for individuals and families facing mental and/or substance use disorders. They can be reached by phone at 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or online at <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>.

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THIS STUDY?**

You may not benefit personally from being in this study. However, in the future, other people might benefit from this study, as the information found may inform the development of more effective behavioral therapies.

**WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES TO PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY?**

If you choose not to participate in this study you may review other ongoing studies that you may be eligible to participate in at USD.

**WILL IT COST ME ANYTHING TO BE IN THIS STUDY?**

You will not have any costs for being in this research study.

**WILL I BE PAID FOR PARTICIPATING?**

You will not be compensated for participating in this study.

**WHO IS FUNDING THE STUDY?**

The University of South Dakota and the research team are receiving no payments from other agencies, organizations, or companies to conduct this research study.

**ARE MY RECORDS CONFIDENTIAL?**

The records of this study will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. In any report about this study that might be published, you will not be identified. Your study record may be reviewed by government agencies, Office of Human Subjects Protection and The University of South Dakota- Institutional Review Boards.

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law.

Confidentiality will be maintained through several means. First, survey responses are collected through a fully secure, encrypted system on the survey website and are stored in a password protected database accessible only to Dr. Christopher R. Berghoff and his research staff. Second, there is never a direct link created between your responses and personally identifiable information. This means there will be no way of connecting your personal information and survey responses at the conclusion of the research study. Third, study data will be password protected, stored on secure servers provided by The University of South Dakota, and accessible by Dr. Christopher R. Berghoff and his personnel only.

If we write a report or article about this study, we will describe the study results in a summarized manner so that you cannot be identified.

**IS THIS STUDY VOLUNTARY?**

Your participation is voluntary. You may choose not to participate, or you may discontinue your participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may also choose to not respond to a survey item. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with The University of South Dakota.

## WHOM MAY I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

You may ask any questions you have now or later.

The researchers conducting this study are:

Principal Investigator:

Christopher R. Berghoff, Ph.D.  
605-658-3710 during the day.

- You may call this number if you have questions, concerns, or complaints about the research.

If you have questions regarding your rights as a research subject, you may contact The University of South Dakota- Office of Human Subjects Protection at **(605) 658-3743**.

- You may also call this number about any problems, complaints, or concerns you have about this research study.
- You may also call this number if you cannot reach research staff, or you wish to talk with someone who is independent of the research team.

\*By selecting "Yes" below, you indicate that you have read the information provided above, that your questions have been answered, and that you agree to take part in this study.

- YES, I agree to participate in this research study
- NO, I do not want to participate in this research study