

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**  
**CONSENT FORM**  
**Deaf-Queer: Identity and Community in the United States**

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**INTRODUCTION and STUDY PURPOSE**

Hi, Welcome to my survey on Deaf-LGBTQ+ identity and community. My name is Ryan DeCarsky. I am a doctoral student of Sociology at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. I am Queer, hearing, and an American Sign Language student. My research focus is on LGBTQ+ identity, culture, and community. Sometimes people do not consider the groups within the LGBTQ+ community, so I aim to study the Deaf-LGBTQ+ perspective. I hope you enjoy the survey and thank you. For more information on me or the research, please email me or check out my website: [ryandecarsky.com](http://ryandecarsky.com)

**STUDY PROCEDURES**

This research study is an online survey through the survey tool Qualtrics. The survey includes 1-5 sections (depending on your status) that cover different topics and are different lengths of time to complete. The total time to completion is typically 20-40 minutes .

Section	Topic
1	Eligibility
2	Identity
3	Community
4	Society
5	Reflection - Free Response

The most sensitive information asked in the survey will cover personal history around your Deafness and sexuality; the survey will ask about challenges faced because of your identities.

You may refuse to answer any question in the survey. If you choose to use the ASL video recording option to answer open-ended questions, the videos you provide will be viewed only by myself and selected interpreter(s) in the data analysis phase of the research.

**RISKS, STRESS, OR DISCOMFORT**

This study asks you to provide personal information about your identity and experiences as a Deaf-Queer/LGBTQ+ person. It is possible that questions in the survey may cause stress or discomfort. All components of the survey are voluntary and you are encouraged to contact the

PI or faculty advisor to report any study-related distress.

### **BENEFITS OF THE STUDY**

This study aims to directly benefit Deaf-Queer/LGBTQ+ communities in the United States through increasing available knowledge on the Deaf-Queer LGBTQ+ perspectives of identity, community, and culture. The findings will work to increase social awareness and support for the community through sharing general results with community members and organizations.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESEARCH INFORMATION**

If you choose to respond to open-ended survey questions using American Sign Language, the provided video recording will be available to the researcher and selected ASL interpreters conducting the translation of the video into a written format for analysis. In addition, the last question of the survey will ask you if you are willing to be contacted for a follow up interview. If you select “yes”, you will be prompted to provide their email address for future contact.

All of the information you provide will be confidential. The information obtained in this study will be used in follow up studies on the Deaf-Queer/LGBTQ+ community. The same confidentiality will be maintained in future use. However, if we learn that you intend to harm yourself or others, we must report that to the authorities.

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

You may refuse to participate and you are free to withdraw from this study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you wish to withdraw, please contact the researcher listed on page 1 of this consent form. Please note that once the survey is submitted, withdrawal will only be possible for participants who provide their email for potential future research at the end of the survey. For the completed survey, you will raise \$10.00 for a non-profit of your choice.

A copy of this consent form is provided here for download. It will be a “PDF” document. Most computers already have PDF viewer software installed, which will allow you to open, read, or print the consent form. If your computer does not have PDF viewer software installed, please visit <https://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the consent form at no cost to you, please contact the researcher listed on page 1 of this consent form.

### **PARTICIPANT STATEMENT**

This study has been explained to me. I volunteer to take part in this research. I have had a chance to ask questions. If I have questions later about the research, or if I have been harmed by participating in this study, I can contact one of the researchers listed on the first page of this consent form. If I have questions about my rights as a research subject, I can call the Human Subjects Division at (206) 543-0098 or call collect at (206) 221-5940. I will receive a copy of this consent form.