

## STANDARD PROTOCOL - LYING VARIATION

### Description for Accompanying Adults

The purpose of the current study is to assess the frequency of illegal sales of tobacco to minors and the effects lying about a child's age has on these sales. Adults will be involved in accompanying children while they make purchase attempts.

Assessment of the sales rate will be done by having minors visit the retail outlets and attempt to purchase a pack of cigarettes. These outlets have been chosen randomly.

Adults will accompany children at all times to:

- Ensure the child's safety
- Ensure that the experimental protocol is being adhered to
- Perform record-keeping activities
- Confiscate all purchased tobacco products for disposal by project staff

Because, in general, you will be accompanying two children who will each need to visit a number of stores, you will be visiting approximately 30 stores per week. This should take no more than about 8–10 hours per week of your time. In addition, you may spend as much as 2–6 additional hours performing record-keeping and data entry. If you have time available, you may be able to accompany more than one group of youth.

When the youth enters the store, s/he will ask, "Can I have a pack of Marlboros?" If the retailer proceeds to sell the merchandise without any additional questions, the youth is to pay for the purchase and leave. The youth will be instructed to lie about his/her age if asked. Youth are not to initiate a discussion of their age; rather, the youth is merely to answer that they are 18 if asked. The purpose is not to entrap retailers, but rather to assess the frequency with which retailers attempt to circumvent the law by merely asking if the youth meets the legal requirements. If anyone else talks to the youth (e.g., comments on how young they are to be buying cigarettes, etc.), the youth is instructed to politely ignore them. In any instance, the youth is to take note of the ethnic background of the sales clerk, the gender of the clerk, and the presence of other people. If any cigarettes are sold, the youth is to keep track of the price. If the youth has a choice of brands of single cigarettes, the child is to note this. The adult will wait outside the retailer with the appropriate data sheet, and the youth will report the above information immediately after each transaction for the adult to record.

Before, during, and after this component of the project, all adults will participate in group training and education sessions. Youth confederates will also attend this training. The focus of these sessions is to:

- Explain the study in detail to all confederates
- Role-play various responses that retailers or children might make
- Explain about the illegality of the task, and about how they have special permission to attempt to purchase cigarettes only while they are working on this project
- Provide basic anti-tobacco information to the youth to discourage them from initiating tobacco use
- Discuss how the project is progressing

Throughout the project, adults will discuss with the youth that the purchase of cigarettes by persons under the age of 18 is illegal and that they are doing this only by special permission. In addition, adults will continue to talk with the youth about the negative aspects of tobacco use and about the special circumstance of this project that allows them to lie about their age. Both tobacco use and lying about their age in other circumstance will be actively discouraged throughout this project.

Adults are aware that the purchase of cigarettes by minors is illegal in the State of California. In addition, the sale of single cigarettes is illegal in the State of California. Although we have obtained permission from local law enforcement agencies to conduct this study, youth will be performing acts that are illegal. In addition, although adults will be given a preferred order in which to visit stores, you should understand that for you and the youth for whom you are responsible, safety is of the utmost importance. Thus, if at any time you have concerns about safety, feel threatened, or feel there is a potential for harm, you are free to postpone a specified visit to any given store to a time when these concerns are not present. Should this happen, it should be noted on the data sheet, and a staff person should be informed. Thus, at all times you have minute-to-minute control of what youth are doing and can take whatever steps are necessary to ensure both your and the youth's safety.

I have read the above and understand the following:

- I am agreeing to participate in a study of the illegal sale of tobacco products to minors.
- During the study, I will accompany children while they make purchase attempts.
- For the purchase attempts I will drive the children to the stores involved and will remain outside and available to collect the necessary data.
- In addition, I will participate in the scheduled training and educational sessions.
- I am serving as a research assistant for this project. The information I collect about the legal or illegal behavior of any specific retailer is to be kept confidential and not discussed with anyone outside of project staff.

I further understand that I can withdraw my consent and cease participation at any time. However, if that happens, I will no longer be employed as a research assistant for the project.

I have read the above and agreed to participate in this project.

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Signature of Accompanying Adult

Date