



## Privacy and Confidentiality in Research

Federal regulations, 45 CFR 46.111(7), requires that “when appropriate, there are adequate provisions to protect the privacy of subjects and to maintain the confidentiality of data”. Therefore, research proposals submitted to the WSU IRB must address how both privacy and confidentiality will be protected, when appropriate. This guidance describes the differences between privacy and confidentiality and lists considerations for each with regard to obtaining IRB approval.

### PRIVACY

Privacy is the ability to control how other people see, access, or obtain information about them.

#### Applies to the person



### CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality is an extension of the concept of privacy; refers to how private information provided by individuals will be protected.

#### Applies to the Data



### Considerations for IRB Approval – When Appropriate

- Research intervention or activity conducted in a private room/area - **Privacy**
- Methods used to collect information about participants is appropriate - **Privacy**
- Collection of sensitive information will be limited to the minimum necessary to achieve the aims of the research - **Privacy**
- Adequate plans to store/code data - **Confidentiality**
- Use of identifiers or links to identifiers - **Confidentiality**
- Obtaining a Certificate of confidentiality - **Confidentiality**
- Separate storage of master list and coded data - **Confidentiality**
- Addressing access to data – and who has it - **Confidentiality**
- When HIPAA applies, protection against inappropriate disclosures of Protected Health Information (PHI) - **Confidentiality**