



Participant Information Leaflet

The lived experience in early adult life of young adults who grew up in relative foster care.

You are being invited to take part in a research study with young adults who grew up in

Relative Foster Care in Ireland. Participation is voluntary.

Before you decide if you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what taking part involves.

Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask questions if anything is not clear or if you would like more information. My contact details are at the end of the document. My supervisor's contact details are also available at the end of the document.

SUMMARY KEY POINTS

- I would like to talk to young adults (21-30 years approx.) who grew up in Relative Foster Care in Ireland
- I am interested in this because there have been very few studies done in Ireland or around the world where the main focus is on the voices of adults with lived experience of relative foster care.
- You can read information and talk to me before making up your mind about taking part.
- Taking part is voluntary and there will be time to change your mind.
- Taking part would mean having a conversation (interview) with me.
- You will have a say in what we talk about.
- I would like to talk about your life now, including things like your interests or hobbies, the people in your life and your experience of school or work.
- Your information will be confidential, see below for more information on this.
- I will use these conversations (interviews) along with information from research to write a thesis.
- I hope that this information will contribute to a greater understanding of relative foster care from the perspective of people who have lived experience.
- I will make sure to store your information (data) carefully and let you know what happens with your information.



What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this study is to contribute and build the understanding of the lived experience of young adults who grew up in Relative Foster Care in Ireland. The reason for this is that there is very little research in Ireland or internationally from the perspective of adults who grew up in relative foster care.

This study will be done through one-to-one conversations (interviews) between individual adult participants and myself as the researcher. All of the information in the interviews will be analysed, I will consider similarities, differences and themes which emerge from all the interviews. I will also consider this alongside other studies and research. I will write this up as a final report or thesis for my PhD.

Who is doing the research?

My name is Julie Cahill and I am doing this research as part of my PhD academic studies in Trinity College Dublin. I am interested in this study because I have worked as a social worker in Tusla for over 20 years. As part of my work, I have had the privilege of talking to lots of young people about their views of foster care, and relative foster care. This made me very interested to find out more from young adults who spent time in relative foster care, and to learn from you about your experience of relative foster care in Ireland and aspects of your adult life you may wish to discuss.

Why have I been chosen to participate?

You have been invited to participate because you have indicated that you are interested in the study, having read the flyer/ information leaflet and have contacted me directly and that you meet the criteria below:

For this study I would like to talk to you if:

- you are between 21 and 30 years of age.
- you have lived with your relative foster carer **for at least three years**.
- This care must have been formal, this means that social workers were involved and that there was a court, or legal agreement for this. If you're not sure, please ask me any questions and we can figure this out.

I am hoping to speak to about 20 young people for this study.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part is entirely voluntary. If you agree to take part, you will be given this information leaflet to keep, and I will ask you to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part, you are still free to change your mind up until a month after the interview and without giving a reason.



What will happen to me if I take part?

This study involves the following stages:

- You will be asked to take part in a conversation (Interview) with me, the researcher. The topics that will be talked about will include things like what is happening in your life. We will agree together where to meet to have this conversation, we can also do this online if you prefer.
- Our interview (conversation) will cover topics like your current interests or hobbies, the people in your life, your experience of school or work and your thoughts about where you live. We will talk about your views about whether you think your experience of relative foster care has had an impact on your adult life.
- If you consent I will audio record our conversation. This is just to make sure that I don't miss any information. After our conversation I will listen to the recording and write down word for word our conversation (transcribe).
- I will download this recording as a password protected audio file and save this securely on Trinity SharePoint. I will do this as soon as possible after the interview (same day). I will delete the recording from my Dictaphone as soon as it is downloaded.
- In order to arrange our conversation, I will need to keep a record of your basic personal information that you give me, this includes your name, your phone number or email and the date, time and location we will be meeting.
- At the time of the conversation, I will ask you for your age and gender. This is so that I can try to have a balance of different voices in my research.
- In my study you will be referred to by a "pseudonym", a name which is not your own. You can choose some names when we meet up if you want. I will need to include your real age with this name. I will also change the names of any other people that we talk about, or any other details that might identify you such as names of places that you lived.
- The transcription (written copy) of our conversation will be saved using this other name (pseudonym).
- If you wish to review this transcript you can contact me at jucahill@tcd.ie, this will be possible up to one month after our interview. After that the information will have been pooled for analysis and it cannot be withdrawn or changed.
- The data I collect will be kept until I have completed my PhD thesis. After this it will be destroyed.
- All research information will be stored securely on a password protected laptop and saved on secure ICT systems in Trinity College Dublin
- Your information will be used for this research study only.



What are the benefits of taking part?

There will be no direct benefits to participants, however I hope the results of the study will help us to understand more about the experience of young adults who had experience of relative foster care. A small gratuity (40 euro gift voucher) will be provided to acknowledge your time and contribution to the study.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

It is my intention that this research conversation will be a respectful experience for you. It is possible that the discussion might bring up topics or memories that might cause you discomfort or upset. We can take a break at any stage during our conversation, or we can change the topic if you want. At all times you have the right to withdraw your consent if you don't want to continue. Contact information for support services is available on the next page.

I have taken all measures to minimise any risk to your information. All information will be treated confidentially. Your identifying information will be held securely and available to myself and my supervisors only.

Will my participation in this study be kept confidential?

Your privacy is important to me. Your personal information will be stored securely on the Trinity College Dublin provided IT systems and deleted on completion of my PhD study.

I will never share your audio files with any third parties. Pseudonymised transcripts of your interviews will be accessible to me and my supervisors only.

Anonymised, aggregated data may be shared with the scientific community, practice and policy makers.

Limitation on Confidentiality:

Confidentiality may be breached in circumstances in which you disclose something to me, which relates to, concerns for child protection.

What will happen to the results of this research?

The information from this study may be published in scientific papers and may be presented at academic conferences or learning events. A copy of the PhD Thesis will also be available on the TARA database in Trinity College Dublin. Your identity will remain confidential and no one will know that you took part in the study.



What happens if I change my mind?

Your participation in this study is voluntary and you can change your mind even if the study has started.

You do not have to give a reason for changing your mind. This will have no negative impact on you in any way.

If you would like to withdraw from the study, please contact jucahill@tcd.ie or my supervisors who can organise this for you immediately. Please note that this applies until one month after our interview. At this point the data will have been pooled for analysis and it will not be possible to delete your data from the study.

What do I do if I have any further questions?

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your participation in the study please ask me. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

I can be contacted at jucahill@tcd.ie

You can also contact my supervisors. They are Dr Eavan Brady (bradye3@tcd.ie) and Professor Robbie Gilligan (rgillign@tcd.ie).

THANK YOU

February 2024

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One Copy to be given to the participant, one copy to be retained by the researcher.

Support and Advocacy Services

Empowering People in Care (EPIC) <https://www.epiconline.ie/> EPIC provides advocacy and support services for people in care and people with care experience. Ph: 01-87276617, email info@epiconline.ie

Samaritans <https://www.samaritans.org/5reland/how-we-can-help/contact-samaritan/>

Call 116123

Aware <https://www.aware.ie/support/> Phone: 1800804848

Your GP and your local Family Resource Centre can also provide support and details of services in your local area.



Data Protection Information

Data Controller	Trinity College Dublin
Data Protection Officer	Data Protection Officer Secretary's Office Trinity College Dublin Dublin 2 Ireland Email: dataprotection@tcd.ie Website: www.tcd.ie/privacy

What is the lawful basis to use my personal data?

Information will only be used for this research study which aims to improve understanding of the lived experience of young adults with experience of relative foster care in Ireland. The legal basis for processing your personal data is Article 6(1)(e) of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The legal basis for processing your sensitive personal data is Article 9(2)(j) GDPR.

How long will you store my personal data?

An excel spreadsheet containing your name, age, contact details, gender and urban / rural location will be retained for the duration of this study This will be stored on secure Trinity IT systems, I will be the only person who can access this.

The audio recordings of our conversation will be downloaded as an audio file to a secure Trinity IT System on the day of our conversation. Once this is completed, I will immediately delete the original audio recording.

The downloaded audio file will be retained for one month after our conversation. This is allow you the opportunity to review or amend your interview if you wish. If you do not make contact with me I will delete this recording one month after our conversation.

The signed consent form will be scanned and saved on a secure Trinity IT system. This will be accessible only by the researcher. It will be retained for the duration of my study and will be destroyed once my PhD process has been completed.

The pseudonymised transcripts of the interviews will be stored securely on Trinity College systems and will be destroyed 3 years after completion of my PhD study.



What are my rights in relation to your use of my personal data?

You are entitled to request any of the rights below unless it would make it impossible or very difficult to carry out the research study:

- The right to access to your personal data;
- The right to receive a copy of your personal data;
- The right to ask us to restrict our use of your personal data;
- The right to ask us to correct inaccurate information about you; or
- The right to ask us to delete your personal data.

You are entitled to object to any further processing of the information we hold about you.

If you wish to restrict the use of your data or correct information, please contact me at jucahill@tcd.ie or my supervisors. I will check that the data is correct at the time of the interview. If you wish to review or check any part of the information provided, I will arrange this with you.

If you wish to delete your data, please contact me at jucahill@tcd.ie or my supervisors. Please be aware that you are entitled to stop the interview if you wish at any point. You are entitled to decide that you do not want to be a participant and ask that your data is deleted. If this happens I will delete the data and I will confirm with you that this is done.

After the interview you have the right to withdraw your consent without giving any reason and request that your data is deleted up to one month after the interview. This will be done and I will confirm with you when it is completed. One month after the interview I will not be able to delete the data as it will have been processed and analysed.

If you have any questions in relation to your rights under data protection law, you can contact the Data Protection Officer, Trinity college Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland. Email: dataprotection@tcd.ie. Website: www.tcd.ie/privacy.

Under GDPR, if you are not satisfied with how your data is being processed, you have the right to raise a concern with the Office of the Data Protection Commission, 21 Fitzwilliam Square South, Dublin 2, Ireland. Website www.dataprotection.ie