



APPENDIX E

University of South Alabama RESEARCH INVOLVING DECEASED INDIVIDUALS

Assurances under this provision of the HIPAA Privacy Rule requires investigators who intend to conduct research involving decedent's information must make certain representations before using or disclosing decedent's protected health information for research. "Use" is sharing PHI within the USA entity. A "disclosure" is sharing PHI with someone outside the USA entity.

I, _____, intend to examine records/specimens of deceased individuals that contain PHI and will adhere to the following representations:

1. The research requires the review of PHI solely for research on deceased individuals.
2. The access sought to PHI is necessary for research purposes.
3. If requested, I will provide documentation of the death of the individual(s) whose protected health information that will be accessed.

Research staff needing access to protected health information:

Signature of Principal Investigator

Date

Please note: the covered entity from which you request the protected health information may request documentation of death.

IRB review is not necessary for research involving deceased individuals. However, if you will be maintaining health information linked to identifiers that could affect family members of the deceased (i.e., genetic makers of certain diseases), you may have to submit the research to the IRB. In that case, you will not need to submit this form.

Date Received by IRB: