

**James Madison University**  
**Office of Research Integrity and Institutional Review Board**  
**Standard Operating Procedures**

**TITLE: Research Involving Suicidal Ideation**

**SOP # 17**

**Revision # 1**

**Effective Date: 9/22/2023**

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**OBJECTIVE**

To provide guidance on research involving suicidal ideation.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

When conducting research that involves direct questioning regarding suicidal ideation, the following procedures are provided:

*If the researcher is a licensed clinician (e.g., licensed psychologist, nurse practitioner, clinical social worker, etc.):*

If there is experience managing suicidal ideation, the licensed clinician will act on their own behalf and will develop their own safety plan under the guidance and requirements of the clinician’s licensure.

*If the researcher is not a licensed clinician:*

A licensed clinician must be present, either in person or virtually, during data collection. The safety plan is developed with the researchers and licensed clinician(s). The licensed clinician makes the final safety call for participants. Clinical diagnostic measures should be used to assess risk to assist clinician’s safety determination.

*Anonymous Research*

For research involving suicidal ideation that is anonymous (e.g., surveys, etc.), researchers must provide appropriate mental health resources at the end of the survey/questionnaire (e.g., suicide hotline, counseling center, etc.). A licensed clinician does not need to be present at the time of administering the survey.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

Execution of SOP: Principal Investigator (PI)/ Study Personnel, IRB Chair, IRB, ORI Staff, ORI Director, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice Provost for Research, Economic Development and Innovation (VPREDI)

**REVISION HISTORY**

<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Brief Description of Changes</b>	<b>Created on Date</b>
00	Creation of SOP	6/8/2022
01	Updated title of Vice Provost for Research, Economic Development and Innovation (VPREDI)	9/22/2023

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**SIGNATURE HISTORY**

Name and Title	Signature	Date