

# INTERACTIVE DECISION TREE

## IS RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD REVIEW NECESSARY?

Is one of the intended purposes of the activity, project, or data collection “research”? The definition of research is “an undertaking intended to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation”.

**yes or unsure** **no or unsure**

Will the undertaking involve living human participants who may be observed, provide information, data, or responses to interventions, stimuli, or questions that are intended to help answer the research question?

**yes**

**no**

Will the undertaking involve individuals whose involvement is intended to answer the research question?

Will the undertaking involve the observation of people?

**yes**

**no**

**yes**

**no**

REB review is required.

REB review is not required when the research may involve individuals who are not themselves the focus of the research to obtain information. Such individuals are not considered participants. If you are still unsure, consult your REB.

Will the observation of people be in public places? Refer to the definition of public places (Art 2.3)

**yes**

**no**

This does not appear to be research involving human participants requiring ethics review.

REB review is required.

REB review is not required for the observation of people in public places when it does not involve any staged intervention or direct interaction with individuals or groups, there is no expectation of privacy, and dissemination of results do not identify individuals. Consult TCPS 2 -Chapter 2 or your REB for more information.

Is the sole intended purpose of the undertaking for quality assessment or assurance purposes to improve services, practices, or teaching and learning within a program, department, or faculty?

Review the MacPherson Institute IQAP page or contact iqap@mcmaster.ca

This undertaking may constitute research requiring ethics review. Contact the McMaster Research Ethics Board to discuss.

Will the undertaking rely exclusively on publicly available literature or other information? (Art. 2.2)

**yes**

**no**

This does not appear to be research involving human participants requiring ethics review.

REB review may be required. Contact your REB.

Will the undertaking use a person's data or information that was collected for one purpose but now being proposed for another purpose (e.g. assignments, grades, etc.)?

**yes**

**no**

REB review is required.

This does not appear to be research involving human participants requiring ethics review.

Projects may change over time and require ethics review after the planning stages. When in doubt, contact your REB.  
 mREB: ethics@mcmaster.ca, x23143  
 HiREB: https://hireb.ca/hireb-contacts/



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