



Informed Consent for Participation in Research
Applied Psychology & Counselor Education

Project Title:

A Study Exploring the Relationship Between Personal Trauma, Gender,
and the Experience of Vicarious Trauma Among Counseling Professionals.

Lead Researcher: Kristin Kushmider, MA. (970) 584-9833, kristin.kushmider@unco.edu

Research Advisor: Heather Helm, PhD. (970) 351-1630, heather.helm@unco.edu

The goal of this research is to identify the prevalence of vicarious trauma among counseling professionals and to further clarify the factors which contribute to this phenomenon. Your voluntary participation is greatly appreciated.

As a participant, you are being asked to donate 20-40 minutes of your time which involves completing a demographics questionnaire, as well as three screening assessments. The first assessment is the Traumatic Life Events Questionnaire (TLEQ), which asks general questions about any exposure you may have had to a stressful or traumatic event. Items in the TLEQ are related to potentially traumatic events such as automobile accidents, the unexpected death of a friend or family member, abuse, and other similar circumstances. You will then be asked to complete the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Screening and Diagnostic Scale (PDS). The PDS asks about distress and functioning in areas of social life, personal relationships, work, and religion as they relate to a traumatic experience. Finally, you will be asked to complete the Trauma Attachment and Belief Scale (TABS) which assess the impact counseling survivors of trauma has on a mental health professional's cognitive beliefs. Responses to these survey assessments may cause you to experience mild levels of anxiety or emotional discomfort, but is not expected to be greater than what you may experience working with clients. Given the personal nature of some of the questions, you will receive a trauma debriefing form which outlines common responses to stressful events, as well as a resource list identifying potential resources in your community.

Your participation in this study will remain strictly confidential. Beyond the primary researcher and research advisor, no one will be allowed to see or discuss any of your responses. To ensure your confidentiality, no identifying information is required on the survey assessments and the survey assessment responses and signed consent form will be kept separately. Individual responses from this study will be combined with all other responses and reported collectively for publication. All data will be kept in locked files in the researcher advisor's office and all survey responses will be destroyed after five years.

Your participation in this study will most likely not result in any direct benefits to you as an individual but it may help you to further understand any changes you may have experienced as a result of working with survivors of trauma.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may decide not to participate in this study, and, if you begin to participate you may still decide to stop and withdraw at any time. Your decision will be respected and will not result in loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. Having read the above and having had an opportunity to ask any questions, please sign below if you would like to participate in this research. A copy of this form will be given to you to retain for future reference. If you have concerns about your selection or treatment as a research participant, please contact the Office of Sponsored Programs, Kepner Hall, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO 80639; 970-351-2161.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about this research and please retain one copy of this letter for your records. Thank you for assisting me with this important research.

Sincerely,

Kristin Kushmider, MA

Participant Signature

Date

Researcher Signature

Date



Cut here

Amazon.com Gift Card Raffle

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Preferred method of contact: ___ Phone ___ Email