



Participant Information Sheet

Project title: Prosecuting, defending, sentencing: Infant killing and the role of the law and courts in England and Wales

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You are invited to take part in a study conducted as part of Dr Milne's research at Durham University. The study is funded by the [BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants](#).

This study has received ethical approval from Durham Law School Ethics Committee of Durham University.

Before you decide whether to agree to take part it is important for you to understand the purpose of the research and what is involved as a participant. Please read the following information carefully. Please get in contact with the researcher if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

The rights and responsibilities of anyone taking part in Durham University research are set out in our [Participants Charter](#).

What is the purpose of the study?

The aim of this study is to examine the perceptions of legal professionals in relation to cases of infant killing and/or foetal harm and the criminal law. I am specifically interested in your thoughts on the nature of cases, the current law, and the implications of the law. Find out more information about the [research](#).

The study is expected to run from December 2021 to June 2024.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to participate in the research as you currently or previously worked as a legal professional in England and Wales and have experience of cases and/or the relevant criminal law.

Do I have to take part?

Your participation is voluntary, and you do not have to agree to take part. If you do agree to take part, you can withdraw from the study without giving a reason up to the point of completion of data analysis (anticipated to be by early-2024). Your rights in relation to withdrawing any personal data that is identifiable to you are explained in the accompanying Privacy Notice.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you agree to take part in the study, you will be asked to participate in one interview that will last approximately one hour. The interview will be audio recorded. During the interview you can omit any questions you do not wish to answer. You may also suspend or stop the interview at any time.

The interview will take place either online via Microsoft Teams, or in person, whichever you prefer. If the interview is held in person then the researcher will travel to you to conduct the interview. Ideally, in person interviews will be held in your office at your place of work. An alternative venue in a public place that is of mutual convenience to you and the researcher can also be agreed. Ideally the interview (whether held online or in person) will be conducted in a private office-setting to limit background noise and/or interruptions.

Are there any potential risks involved?

Identifying your contribution to the research

Cases relating of suspected infant killing by mothers and/or foetal harm by pregnant women are few and far between. Therefore, a limited number of legal professionals will have worked on such cases in the last decade. Consequently, it is possible that your contribution to the research may be recognised by fellow legal professionals.

To mitigate this risk, the researcher will be selective in how your responses to the interview questions will be reported in research outputs (such as, journal articles, conference papers, research briefings, webpages, and videos). The transcript of the interview will be pseudonymised (removal of your name and replaced with a pseudonym) and confidentialised (removal of information that can identify you, such as your place of employment) during the transcription and transcript review process, with only information relating to professional context being retained. This contextualising data will be needed to assist in the reporting of the findings of the research; for example, information about your role within a case and/or your level of experience with such cases.

Alternatively, you may wish to be identified in the reporting of the research findings. In which case, your responses to the interview questions will be reported with your name and other personal details (such as details of your employment) included. This option should be discussed with the researcher as part of the conversation about consent to participate in the research.

Privileged information

To avoid compromise of privileged information and so preventing a potential conflict of interest, the researcher will not ask about specific cases. Interviews will focus on exemplar cases and abstract discussions.

Will my personal data be kept confidential?

See the accompanying Privacy Notice.

What will happen to the results of the project?

It is expected that the results from the project will be published towards the end of 2024. A summary of the research findings for participants in the research will be produced and shared with you.

All research data and records needed to validate the research findings will be stored securely for 10 years after the end of the project.

If you choose for your personal data to be pseudonymised and confidentialised, then no personal data collected as part of the research will be shared. However, pseudonymised and confidentialised data will be used in research outputs (such as, journal articles, conference papers, research briefings, webpages, and videos).

If you choose for your personal data to NOT be pseudonymised and confidentialised, then data will be reported in research outputs (such as, journal articles, conference papers, research briefings, webpages, and videos) with your name and other personal details (such as details of your employment) included.

If consent is provided, then the transcript of the interview will be deposited with the [UK Data Service](#) for future research and learning purposes. The transcript will be deposited as Open Data, licensed under Creative Commons: [Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International](#). Read the [terms and conditions](#) for use of the UK Data Service ReShare data repository. The data will be deposited at the end of the research project and will be made available 6 months after completion of the research project.

For further details as to how your personal data will be used, see the Privacy notice.

Who owns the copyright of the interview transcript?

For data collected via interviews that are recorded and/or transcribed, Durham University holds the copyright of recordings and transcripts, but each speaker is an author of his or her recorded words in the interview.

With your consent, your copyright as author will be transferred to Durham University. Transfer of the copyright facilitates the researcher to quote from the interview in research outputs (such as, journal articles, conference papers, research briefings, webpages, and videos).

Who do I contact if I have any questions or concerns about this study?

If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please speak to the researcher (Emma Milne – emma.milne@durham.ac.uk). If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please submit a complaint via the University's [Complaints Process](#).

Thank you for reading this information and considering taking part in this study.