Security Pledge for the Use of Sensitive Data

Inter-university Consortium for Political Social Research

Pledge of Confidentiality

Through my involvement with and work on my project, I will have access to sensitive data provided by ICPSR. By virtue of my affiliation with the project, I have access to confidential information and use of data about respondents generally perceived as personal and private. I understand that access to this confidential information and data carries with it responsibility to guard against unauthorized use and to abide by the Sensitive Data Security Plan. To treat information as confidential means not to divulge it to anyone who is not a project member, or cause it to be accessible to anyone who is not a project member. Anything not specifically named as “public information” is considered confidential.

Each person using sensitive data provided by ICPSR is reminded that disclosing confidential information directly or allowing non-authorized access to such information may subject that individual to criminal prosecution and/or civil recovery and may violate the code of research ethics of my institution.

I agree to fulfill my responsibilities on this project in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. I agree not to permit non-project personnel access to these sensitive data, in either electronic or paper copy.

2. I agree not to attempt to identify individuals, families, households, schools, neighborhoods, health services, or institutions.

3. I agree that in the event an identity of any individual, family, household, school, neighborhood, health service, or institution is discovered inadvertently, I will (a) make no use of this knowledge, (b) advise the Investigator of the incident who will report it to ICPSR, (c) safeguard or destroy the information as directed by the Investigator after consultation with ICPSR, and (d) not inform any other person of the discovered identity.