Hi, my name is Shawna Malvini Redden and I am a communication professor at California State University, Chico. I am conducting a research study to explore the ways young people create identities, manage friendships, and interact with peers online. I am inviting your child's participation in a private one-on-one interview about her/his activities online. Interviews will last approximately one hour. I will also ask your child if s/he agrees to be contacted again in the near future for follow up questions. Follow-ups will take place within a month or two of the original interview, and will involve me asking brief additional questions about online activities, or getting their opinion on the information I’m learning from other teens.

All information will be kept confidential. Your child’s name will never be publicly associated with this project and her/his participation will be kept confidential. With permission, interviews will be audio recorded for the purposes of transcription, but your child’s name and identifying information will be removed and the audio files will be destroyed once analysis is complete.

Your child's participation in this study is voluntary. If you choose not to have your child participate or to withdraw your child from the study at any time, there will be no penalty. Likewise, your child can decide not to participate or stop participating at any time without penalty. The results of the research study may be published, but your child's name will not be used.

Your child's participation will help researchers and program designers have a better understanding of how young people make themselves vulnerable online and what potential risks and benefits come from this process of creating online identities and communities. There are no foreseeable risks or discomforts to your child’s participation. In order to protect the confidentiality of your child, a pseudonym will be created for her/him to use in place of her/his name. Responses will be confidential.

If you have any questions concerning the research study or your child's participation in this study, please do not hesitate to contact me: Shawna Malvini Redden, Ph.D., smalviniredden@csuchico.edu

916-747-3166

If you have any questions about you or your child's rights as a participant in this research, or if you feel you or your child has been placed at risk, you can contact the Chair of the Human Subjects Research Committee John Mahoney, Ph.D., at 530-898-5413.

Thank you,

Shawna Malvini Redden, Ph.D.

By signing below, you are giving consent for your child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Child’s name) to participate in the interview study above.

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Signature Date

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