

Research Exempt from Research Ethics Board Review

Some research is exempt from REB review where protections are available by other means. The exemptions from the requirement for REB review allowed under the TCPS2 Policy are outlined below.

1. If you are obtaining information about policies, practices or procedures from an official representative of an organization who is appointed to provide this information as part of his or her regular duties (e.g. a communications officer) and no personal opinions are solicited, these individuals are not seen to fit the definition of a human research participant under the TCPS2 (see Application section, [Article 2.1](#)) and interviews conducted in this context do not require institutional ethics review.
2. [TCPS Article 2.2](#) Research does not require REB review when it relies exclusively on information that is:
 - a. publicly available through a mechanism set out by legislation or regulation and that is protected by law; or
 - b. in the public domain and the individuals to whom the information refers have no reasonable expectation of privacy.
3. [TCPS Article 2.3](#) REB review is not required for research involving the observation of people in public places where:
 - a. it does not involve any intervention staged by the researcher, or direct interaction with the individuals or groups;
 - b. individuals or groups targeted for observation have no reasonable expectation of privacy; and
 - c. any dissemination of research results does not allow identification of specific individuals.
4. [TCPS Article 2.4](#) REB review is not required for research that relies exclusively on secondary use of anonymous information, or anonymous human biological materials, so long as the process of data linkage or recording or dissemination of results does not generate identifiable information.
5. [TCPS Article 2.5](#) Quality assurance and quality improvement studies, program evaluation activities, and performance reviews, or testing within normal educational requirements when used exclusively for assessment, management or improvement purposes, do not constitute research for the purposes of this Policy, and do not fall within the scope of REB review.
6. [TCPS Article 2.6](#) Creative practice activities, in and of themselves, do not require REB review. However, research that employs creative practice to obtain responses from participants that will be analyzed to answer a research question is subject to REB review.

If you think that your project falls under an exemption and you require an exemption letter, please apply through the online application system.

If you are in any doubt as to whether your project requires ethics review, please contact ORE at dore@sfu.ca