

SENECA NATION RESEARCH POLICY

Recognizing the need to provide adequate protection to its members from unwarranted personal intrusion, the Seneca Nation ("Nation") wishes to establish this policy to control all research done on the Nation territories involving either personal contact with individuals to gather information, research through the use of Nation official records, or through any other data derived from records, including computerized information, of any Nation department.

The first step in initiating a research program or request of official data, on the territories should be the submission of a written proposal to the Office of the Seneca Nation President. **The exception is requests for health or medical research. Such research request will follow the established guidelines posted on the Seneca Nation Health System website.** For other types of research, in general, the proposal should state the purpose of the work, methods of gathering data, vitae of researchers, expected outcomes and should also include a timetable. Expressly stated in the proposal should be a statement of how the proposed research will benefit the people of the Seneca Nation. Include a resume of the principal investigator(s) for the project and copies of proposals submitted to funding agencies. The proposal will be submitted to the Council and the researcher(s) may be asked to appear either to talk with the Councillors and the Executives or to answer questions directly in Council. Permission for the project will be granted or denied by the Council and the researcher(s) should assume that a time limit will be set on the proposed project. Should the project overrun the allotted time, extensions may be granted by Council on the basis of a written request for extension.

If it is expected that the resulting publication, film, etc. will result in a profit, arrangements for sharing a percentage of that profit with the Nation will be made before the research is approved.

Should the proposed work call for personal interviews, individual permission must be obtained from each person to be interviewed. Project permission granted by Council will not obligate any or all Seneca people to cooperate in the research, but rather will allow the researcher to approach the people to seek individual permission.

If questionnaires are to be used, the researcher should check with the Nation Clerk's office to assure compliance with local regulations regarding either door-to-door solicitation or mail regulations.

If Nation records are to be used in the research, arrangements will need to be made with the appropriate departments to secure access to the records at times and in circumstances acceptable to that department.

It must be stressed that, at all times, the greatest care must be taken to assure confidentiality of the individual, whether the approach is personal or through the use of records such as health records, financial records, enrollment records, etc. If there is any chance of breach of confidentiality of the individual, approach must be made either to the individual or the heirs of the individual to seek permission to use information gathered by that individual. In such a case, it must be reported to the individual from whom permission is sought that the use of the information in the resulting report will cause a likely breach of confidentiality. The individual is free to either give or deny permission to use such data. It is recognized by the Nation that the use of computers and the internet has given the unique ability to gather a great deal of information about individuals, some of which may be either compromising or embarrassing to that individual. These data are never to be used without express permission of the individual, either in publication or report. Information potentially damaging to the individual should be destroyed in the researcher's records in order to avoid compromising the individual.

If it is customary to pay informants off the territories, it shall be customary on territory as well, with informants being paid at the current rate. If it is customary to award gifts or tokens to respondents in a survey off territory, the same shall hold true on territory. These arrangements for informant rate of pay, etc., should be included in the proposal. In general, Respondents either to personal interviews or questionnaires shall be treated in the same manner as similar people off the territory.

If it shall be necessary to hire local people to aid in the research, preference shall be given to Seneca or other Hodinöhsö:ni' people in the community. Lists of qualified and available people can be obtained from the Nation HR Office or appropriate department.

Copies of all documents, reports, tapes, photographs, etc., developed as a result of the project will be placed with the Nation where they will be available for all interested people.

It must be stressed once more that all research involving either personal contact or the use of written or computerized records must be cleared in advance by the Council. No residence for the end purpose of research may be taken up on the reservation of the Nation prior to approval of the research. No work may be done prior to receiving permission. This includes such studies as sociological studies, anthropological studies, genealogical studies, demographic studies, environmental studies, etc. Permission will be granted or denied based on the value of the proposed study to the Seneca people.

Adopted by the Seneca Nation Council August 18, 1986.

Amended by the Seneca Nation Council June 12, 2021.

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