

Ethical Issues in Interviews

These notes are based on good practice as identified in a survey of Ethics Proposals to the College.

- It is important that **procedures** for interviews are laid out in writing, and are clearly explained to interviewees before interviews proceed. It is expected that interviewees will be supplied with the written version of these procedures.
- Interviewees have to be happy with the **location** of the interview, and should be offered alternatives (public/private).
- The interviewer should be aware of issues involving his/her own **safety** when undertaking an interview. Contact details of places visited on the day of each interview should be left with a friend or colleague.
- **Confidentiality** is an important concern. Interviewees should not normally be named (unless their permission has been explicitly sought, and this should only be done where a name is essential for the pursuit of the research in question).
- **Permission.** Any recorded contribution, in written form, on tape etc., or in notes taken from the interview by the interviewer, should be used in accordance with the wishes of the interviewee. If possible, interviewees should give their assent in writing and if this is not possible an explanation must be given. If material is to be published or preserved as a public resource, then permission will need to be explicitly given, preferably in writing.

With regard to any research involving **adults who are unable to consent for themselves**, please see the following statement:

"From 1 July 2002, all research in Scotland, whether multi-centre or not, involving adults who are unable to consent for themselves, requires ethical approval from the MREC for Scotland. E.g. head injury, stroke patients, dementia sufferers. If your research involves such groups of patients please contact the MREC for Scotland."

http://www.england-legislation.hms.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2002/ssi_20020190_en.pdf

The College Ethics Officer will be happy to advise further on good practice. Email arts-ethics@glasgow.ac.uk.