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# Yale University Institutional Review Boards

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## 410 PR.2 Recruitment Time Frames and Settings

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### Overview

This procedure provides information for researchers and IRB members in considering the appropriate timing and setting in conducting research recruitment activities.

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### Recruitment Time Frames and Setting:

#### Ethical Considerations:

The investigator and the Yale IRB must consider whether or not the recruitment methods and activities proposed in a research project uphold the principle of Respect for Persons. For example:

- Will a potential participant be upset when they learn that their private information has been shared with, or viewed by, investigators for research purposes?
- Should a potential participant be invited to take part in research immediately after the individual has been told of a serious disease, illness or condition or behavior disorder?
- Should a person be recruited to take part in a research study when he/she is in a strained state of mind, (e.g., a pregnant woman who is about to deliver her baby), or in a stressful location such as the emergency department?
- Will the setting for recruitment provide subtle inducements to participate, for example, a classroom of fellow students, or an office of co-workers?

#### General Guidelines and Considerations for the Timing of Recruitment:

- Recruitment methods should demonstrate a respect for a reasonable person's expectation of privacy and confidentiality regarding their private information.
- Persons should be recruited for research in a manner that upholds their right to choose.
- Investigators approaching potential subjects for research should ensure that persons are lucid and capable of making independent decisions.
- As a general rule, recruitment of research participants should be conducted well in advance of the consent process and any research interventions.
- In cases where it the Investigator believes that recruitment activities can only be conducted in suboptimal time frames and/or settings, the Investigator must explain and justify such arrangements in the IRB application as well as any steps to be taken to minimize the impact on potential participants.

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### References

See Procedure 510 PR.1: Protecting Participants' Research Data