

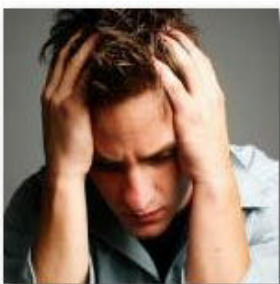


The researcher needs to safeguard the interests, rights and general well-being (both physical and psychological) of respondents. **Examples** here might be respecting respondent privacy or minimising anxiety / distress that may be caused by the research.

In the UK, the collection, storage and retrieval of data are governed by things such as the **Data Protection Act**, the **Human Rights Act**, **Copyright laws** and the **laws of libel**. In addition, if research involves criminal or deviant activities, the researcher may have to consider the ethical question of participation in such behaviour or their responsibilities to both the perpetrators and their possible victims.

It would be unethical to bully or blackmail (emotionally or physically) people into participating in your research. In addition - especially when researching people who are relatively powerless - relationships need to be based on trust and personal integrity on the part of the researcher. **For example**, if the researcher promises anonymity as a way of researching people involved in criminal or deviant activities, disclosing respondent identities to the authorities would be unethical.

Where possible, the researcher should always gain the consent of those being studied.



Care always needs to be taken to ensure the physical and psychological safety of both the researcher and the respondent.

