

IRB Policy 29: Ombudsman

Revision Date: February 16, 2008

I. Definitions

- A. **Ombudsman**: A neutral person who mediates for the participants or their family or a legally authorized representative.

II. Summary Policy

It is the policy of both the ETSU IRB and the ETSU/VA IRB to include an ombudsman in the research process, when applicable. An ombudsman may serve as an additional resource for participants or the community.

III. Selection

- A. The ombudsman is typically a scientist or an individual with expertise in the area

IV. Role of an Ombudsman

- A. to govern the research process where the subjects may be extremely vulnerable or can become vulnerable during the research
- B. if the study involves a vulnerable population, the PI may be required to obtain or choose an ombudsman

References:

The Belmont Report
45 CFR 46