

Participant information sheet

You are invited to participate in a study. The person responsible for the research is Rannveig S. Sigurvinsdóttir, associate professor at the Department of Psychology at Reykjavík University. Below is information about the study, why it is being conducted and how. Please read the text carefully before deciding whether you want to participate.

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to examine and evaluate possible resources for victims of sexual violence. A virtual reality environment has been developed based on a courtroom at Reykjavík District Court. Victims of sexual violence will be invited to test the virtual reality and their responses will be assessed through questionnaires, interviews and biological measurements.

Participants

The study participants will be victims of sexual violence who are 18 years of age or older today, but the offense may have occurred at any time during their lifetime. We are looking for participants who have not testified in a court case where they themselves are the victims of a crime, but could possibly consider doing so in the future.

What does participation involve?

Participation in the study involves three aspects, attending twice at Reykjavík University at Menntaveg 1, 102 Reykjavík, and answering questionnaires via e-mail once. The first visit to Reykjavík University will probably take about 2 hours and the second about 45 minutes. On both of these occasions, participants will be asked to take a blood test within 24 hours. Answering the email questionnaire will take about 15 minutes. The participants will be divided into two groups, the second group will start by answering the questionnaires by e-mail and then will come to the place twice. The other group will start by attending Reykjavík University twice and then receive a questionnaire by email. Participants will be paid ISK 5,000 for each time they attend, a total of ISK 10,000.

Participants may take a break or stop participating at any time, and participants may withdraw their consent and request that their data be deleted, if it is not non-personally identifiable or has already become part of the results of the study. Participants will also be asked if they would be interested in receiving information about further research being conducted within RU in which they are available to participate, both on virtual courtrooms and other topics.

Confidentiality

All information provided by participants in the study will be treated according to the strictest rules of confidentiality and anonymity and comply with the law on personal protection. The questionnaires will be identified with a participant number which will not be traceable to the participants. All results will be non-personally identifiable.

Benefits and risks/discomforts to participants

Participants will be paid a total of ISK 10,000. for participating in this study. In addition, participants will contribute to increasing knowledge of the use of virtual reality to inform victims of sexual violence, reduce their anxiety and hopefully encourage them to seek justice.

Personal protection, processing and deletion of research data

The study takes into account international conventions, such as the Helsinki Convention and the recommendations of the World Health Organization on ethics and human rights in scientific research. All research data will be stored electronically by the person in charge during processing. The questionnaires will only have a participant number and the answers will therefore not be traceable to the participant. All computer processing of quantitative data is based on the averages or responses of all participants, and the results are therefore not traceable to an individual participant in any way. All research data will be destroyed at the end of the research.