The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has established, through regulation, standards for the protection of human subjects in research. The 2018 Common Rule (45CFR46.102) defines human subjects as a living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research obtains or generates identifiable, private information or biospecimens.

While decedent research does not fall under the purview of the 2018 Common Rule, the RIDOH IRB doubles as RIDOH's Privacy Board. As such, it is RIDOH's policy that the authority of their IRB is extended to all research involving identifiable PHI to assure compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

In addition to the below information, investigators must provide the IRB with a finalized Data Request Form signed by the data holder, or a current Data Use Agreement, authorizing access to the requested information.

Project Title:

Principal Investigator: **E-Mail:**

1) **Briefly describe the proposed research**

2) **What data elements are being requested from RIDOH?**

By signing below, I affirm that: 1) the study is being conducted solely on decedents, 2) the research will not impact any living relative of an individual included in this study, 3) no attempt to contact a living relative of an individual included in this study will be made, 4) that the PHI being sought is necessary for the research, and 5) should information be discovered throughout the course of this study that has the potential to impact a living individual the RIDOH IRB will be immediately contacted.

Signature of Principal Investigator Signature of RIDOH IRB Representative