**Exempt Review definition**

Exempt review ***does not mean that investigators are “exempt” from having to submit an application or protocol details to the IRB***. It is a research determination defined by federal regulations ([45 CFR 46.104](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=83cd09e1c0f5c6937cd9d7513160fc3f&pitd=20180719&n=pt45.1.46&r=PART&ty=HTML#se45.1.46_1104)). The name “exempt” means that protocols determined to meet the criteria for exempt determination are exempt from some of the federal regulations and oversight after the research begins. Remember, however, these protocols are not exempt from state laws, institutional policies, or the requirements for ethical research. Exempt review protocols will be given an exempt *determination*, rather than IRB *approval*. This status also means that the research is less than minimal risk as defined by [45 CFR 46.104](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=83cd09e1c0f5c6937cd9d7513160fc3f&pitd=20180719&n=pt45.1.46&r=PART&ty=HTML#se45.1.46_1104), and requires review by the IRB Chair only or a designated member(s).

There are 8 specific Exempt Review categories, and a few of them have subcategories. Please review the [Exempt Research Categories Checklist](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UJn4coJ34nKmlimgV7VDCXrMi4Pi_K0rjmBfzz8s8iY) to decide if the criteria apply to your protocol. If it does, then submit the Exempt Review Protocol Application. (Please note that exempt status generally does not apply to research with minors – see the checklist for exclusions.)

If you are unsure if your research is considered “research with human subjects,” refer to these two [decision trees](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Bl_WOGUztaywAu-M2rjCxiOHbMNSDpBv/view?usp=sharing) to help you make this determination.