

## **How does the HSRB define “anonymous” and “confidential”?**

*The short answer:*

“Anonymous” should only be used when you do not know who your participants are. An example is an online survey for which participants do not provide any identifying information and you can not track the identity of participants.

“Confidential” should be used for every other situation. Examples are handing a survey to participants, conducting an interview, or conducting a focus group.