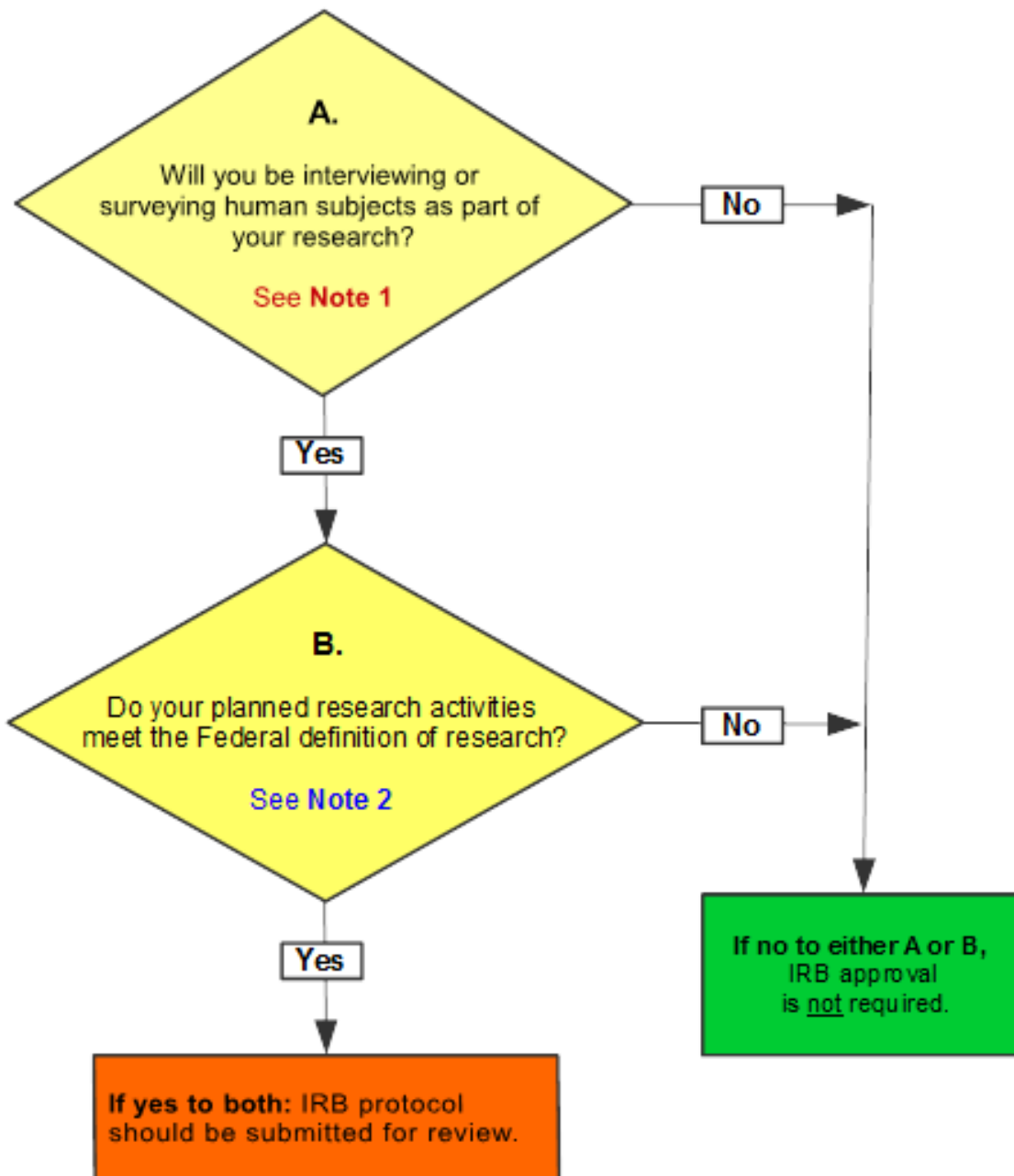


# Does your project need IRB approval?



**Note 1:** Human subjects research involves interacting with another person through interviews, **intervention**, surveys, questionnaires, focus groups, etc. Such **interactions** could result in the collection of **identifiable** private information which is governed by IRB regulations. Although this definition could potentially encompass all interactions with others, IRB DOES NOT include the following:

- Journalism/documentary activities that focus on specific events with no intent to test a hypothesis;
- Certain types of oral history projects that only document historical events or people's experiences without adding to **generalizable** knowledge.
- Program evaluation or quality improvement projects, as long as the resulting information will stay in the institution and not contribute to **generalizable** knowledge;
- Public use databases such as U.S. Census Bureau statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, etc.;
- Data from public libraries or newspapers;
- Course-related activities designed for educational or teacher purposes;
- Expert interviews in which someone is asked to provide information specific to his/her expertise or profession. For example, a welder asked to describe the formation of a weld bead is not disclosing information about him/herself and, as such, is not considered a human subject under IRB.

**Note 2:** Research is officially defined as "a **systematic** investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to **generalizable knowledge**." This involves a predetermined system, method or a plan for studying a specific topic, answering a specific question, testing a specific hypothesis, or developing a theory.

Refer to the IRB Glossary of Terms for more information.

Questions? (574) 631-1389 or [compliance@nd.edu](mailto:compliance@nd.edu)