

The Belmont Report

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

The Belmont Report outlines the fundamental principles for rules governing all government-funded research on human subjects. Three principles are relevant here:

1. **Respect for persons:** recognition of the personal dignity and autonomy of people and the need for special protection for people with diminished autonomy, such as children or prisoners;
2. **Beneficence:** obligation to protect persons from harm by maximizing anticipated benefits and minimizing possible risks;
3. **Justice:** fairness in distribution of the benefits and burdens of research.