**The PATCHES Project**

**Parents’ and their children’s experiences of separation and support**

**Poster for participants**

**Are you part of a family that has been through separation?**

When a family separates, it can be a challenging time for everyone, especially since the Covid pandemic. There are difficult conversations to have and sometimes families need support to help find a way through. When support works well, this is better for everyone in the family, especially children. However, we do not know enough about what families themselves feel about the support they received when going through separation, and the support they would have found helpful. If we can understand the experience of families who have been through separation, we can improve services to support other families in the future.

We are carrying out research into the experiences of families who have been through separation. The findings will be used to inform recommendations to improve support for families going through the separation process in the future.

We are looking for people who have been affected by family separation in the past 18 months. We are interested in speaking to mothers, fathers and children, but also other family members who may have supported the process. We are interested in speaking to people who have used the family court system, but also people who used other ways to make their separation arrangements. It is important that you feel the separation process has completed. If you are still in the process of finalising the separation, you will not be able to take part in the research.

If you take part, we will send you a digital camera to record your views on topics over four weeks. We will invite you to tell us about your family and the decisions you made to separate, and your experience of any support you had from friends, family members or professionals. After finishing this, we will ask you to return the camera to us and we will arrange an interview with you to understand your experiences in more detail.

After the interview, we would return the camera to you to keep, and give you £40 in vouchers to thank you for your time and involvement.

If you would like to take part, or find out more information, please contact us below:

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