

Table 1. Exemplar Quotes on Considerations for a Child-Centered Informed Consent Process for Humanitarian Family Reunification

| Theme | Illustrative Quote (Speaker) | Key Insight |
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| Centering the Child's Best Interest | "The key here is to always reframe and think about the best interest of the child." (Pediatrician) | Consent must prioritize the child's developmental needs, safety, and autonomy. |
| Trauma | "You always have to anticipate the results... Would a positive result lead to another separation from current caregivers to another family?" (Pediatrician) | DNA results can have unintended emotional and relational consequences that must be considered in developing an informed consent process |
| Trauma vs. Healing | "Consent needs to be extremely sensitive to the trauma of separation and the hope of reunification." (Pediatrician) | Ethical reasoning must balance collective trauma with the healing potential of reunification. |
| Mistrust | "People were fearful to provide DNA because they didn't know if it would be compared later with any governmental or police data." (NGO representative) | Transparency and explicit limits on data use are critical to earn and sustain trust. |