

## Handout “Law”

### What is it about?

It is about the legal aspects that play a role in research data management. These can be important throughout the research data lifecycle and primarily concern the following topics:



- Data protection
- Informed consent
- Copyright
- Decision-making powers
- Publication of research data
- Licensing

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### Why is this important?

Legal problems can have financial and personnel consequences and damage the reputation of the university and you as a scientist. In many cases, however, potential problems can be avoided from the outset. This presupposes that the legal aspects of a research project are considered from the very beginning.



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### How do I implement this?

1. Seek advice at an early stage
2. *In the case of own data collection:*
  - a. Obtain necessary (informed) consents
  - b. Carry out pseudonymisation/anonymisation/aggregation if necessary
  - c. If necessary, arrange for a review by an ethics committee
3. *In the case of subsequent use of third-party research data:*
  - a. Check subsequent use licences
4. *For archiving or publication:*
  - a. Use experienced research data centres
  - b. Use standard licences (e.g. Creative Commons)



Self-study unit: Research data management – An introduction  
Hessian Research Data Infrastructures (HeFDI)  
[www.hefdi.de](http://www.hefdi.de)