**A summary of the key points from the AAA Statement on Ethnography and Institutional Review Boards:**

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1.⁠ ⁠Common Rule Compliance: Research organizations in the U.S. must follow the "Common Rule" to ensure human subjects' protection; IRBs must consider its application to ethnographic research.

2.⁠ ⁠Ethical Foundation: AAA emphasizes the need for an ethical foundation in ethnography, balancing risks and benefits and fostering trust between IRBs, researchers, participants, and stakeholders.

3.⁠ ⁠Definition of Ethnography: Ethnography studies human behavior in natural settings, focusing on culture, beliefs, values, and social processes. It involves long-term relationships and dynamic consent processes.

4. IRB Review Requirement: Ethnographic research is subject to IRB review due to its systematic investigation nature, but it should be reviewed case-by-case to match each project’s unique aspects.

5. Risk and Benefit Evaluation: Ethnographic research’s risks vary by context and should be weighed against benefits; potential risks include social harm from disclosure, while benefits may support heritage preservation and social understanding.

6. Exemptions from IRB Review: Some ethnographic studies may qualify for exemptions if conducted in educational settings, involve public officials, or use existing public data.

7. Expedited Review Eligibility: Minimal-risk ethnographic studies may qualify for expedited review, though IRBs must consider heightened risks in sensitive or vulnerable contexts.

8. Informed Consent: Ethnographic informed consent is an ongoing, interactive process; oral consent and waivers may be appropriate when written consent is culturally unsuitable or risky.

9. Community Approval: Some communities require authority consent for research participation, respecting cultural norms about who can give consent.

10. Expert Consultation: When facing complex ethical decisions in ethnography, IRBs should consult ethnographic experts, especially if they lack them on their panel.