



CAREERS AND RESEARCH

Kristen Kenny, Research Compliance Specialist

Kristen Kenny comes from a long line of musicians and artists and was the first in her family to graduate from college. Kenny majored in filmmaking and performance art at the Massachusetts College of Art and soon started working on small films and in theater doing everything from set design, hair, and makeup to costume design and acting. The arts have their fair share of interesting characters; this was the beginning of Kenny's training in dealing with a variety of difficult personalities and learning how to listen and how to react.

Source: Kristen Kenny

After years of working a variety of jobs in the entertainment field, Kenny found herself working as a receptionist in the music industry, a hotbed of difficult personalities, contracts, and negotiations. Within a year, Kenny had been promoted to assistant talent buyer for small clubs and festivals in the Boston area. This job helped Kenny develop the skill of reading dense contract documents and being able to identify what contractual clause language stays and what is deleted. Eventually the music industry started to wane and Kenny was laid off, but a friend at a local hospital who was in dire need of someone who could interpret volumes of documents and deal with bold personalities asked her to apply for a job as their IRB administrator. Kenny had no idea what an IRB was, but she attended trainings and conferences to learn the IRB trade. Three years later, Kenny was asked to join the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, as the IRB administrator.

Now, as a research compliance specialist II, Kenny maintains the IRB and other regulatory units and has developed a training curriculum and program for the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. And if you look hard enough you can find her clothing and fabric designs on eBay, Etsy, and her own website.