

Family Phone Agreement

CONGRATS! You've proven yourself mature and responsible enough for your own phone. Given that you have a phone in your hands, we obviously trust you to make good decisions—so why are we making you sign this lame thing that's loaded with stuff that you probably already know?

Well, let us get to the point.

A phone is more than a piece of technology. If used wrongly, it can be a weapon that puts your heart and your safety at risk. You've always been a great young man, and we want to make sure that you continue making smart choices.

The goal of this agreement is to make sure that we always maintain a direct and open line of communication. For us to provide the privilege of having a phone, we ask you to abide by the following statements.

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Responsibility

- I understand that I am responsible for knowing where my phone is and for keeping it in good condition.
- I will not go over our plan's monthly minutes or text message limits. If I do, I understand that I may be responsible for paying any additional charges or that I may lose my cell phone privileges.
- I will obey any rules our school has regarding phones.
- I understand that my behavior on my phone can impact my future reputation, even in ways that I am not able to predict or see.
- I promise I will tell my parents if I receive any suspicious or alarming phone calls or texts from people I don't know. I will also tell my parents if I am being harassed by someone via my cell phone.
- When I am old enough, I will not text and drive.
- I understand that one of the main reasons my parents provide me with a phone is so that they can reach me, so I will always have my phone turned on and will respond to my parents calls or texts quickly.
- I will not text or use my phone when I am doing homework or while in school.
- I will never buy or download anything (apps, songs, etc.) without permission.

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Integrity

- I understand that my parents have a right to look at my phone whenever there's a need for them to do so, even without my permission.
- I will not delete anything from my phone (apps, texts, call history, web history, pics, etc.).
- I will plug up my phone and be done with it every night by 9:00 p.m. and will not be on it before 8:00 a.m.
- I understand that my cell phone may be taken away if I talk back to my parents, do not do what I'm told to do, or I fail to keep my grades up.
- I understand that having a phone is a privilege and that if I fail to adhere to this agreement, my phone privileges may be revoked.

- I will not send or receive naked photos. Ever. I understand that this is wrong and there could be serious legal consequences that could put mine and my parents' future at risk.
- I will never search for porn or anything else that I wouldn't want Grandma Rife to find.
- I will not lie about where I have been or how I am using the phone. I promise to answer questions openly, honestly, and directly.
- I will never give my passcode or passwords to anyone but my parents. They will always have access to all of my passwords.
- I will never join any social media platform without permission.
- My phone will only be used in public and will never be in the bedroom or bathroom. It will be charged in the living room or in the public place my parents tell me to charge it.

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Friendliness

- I will never send threatening or mean texts to others.
- I will never use my cell phone to bully another person.
- I will not send embarrassing photos of my family or friends to others. In addition, I will not use my phone's camera to take embarrassing photos of others.
- I will never use social media to bully or tease anyone, even if my friends think it's funny.

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Etiquette

- I will not bring my cell phone to the table.
- I will show respectful etiquette regarding phones in public places. I will make sure my phone is silent when I am in church, in restaurants, or quiet settings.
- I will not text or make calls after 9 p.m.
- I will look up, make eye contact, and will not look at my phone when talking to someone in person.
- I will make an effort to mature in phone and internet etiquette. I understand this is an extension of normal manners. I am not a rude person and I will not allow the phone to change this important part of who I am.
- If I am asked to stop using my phone, I happily do so right away.

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I understand that the rules above are for my safety and that my parents love me more than anything in the world. I understand that my parents want to give me freedom, while also giving me enough security to make smart choices. That's why I agree to do my best to follow the rules above.

Child

Dad

Mom