

Cell Phone Contract

An agreement between _____ and his/her parents, _____.

This agreement is in force for the duration of your ownership of this cell phone, beginning _____. It is also in force when you use cell phones belonging to friends and family members.

Understandings About Phone Calls and Text Messages

1. The main reasons you are receiving this phone are for communication with your parents and for personal safety (the ability to get help or assistance if you need it).
2. Your new phone is NOT a toy.
3. Talking with and texting friends is permitted provided you stay within the phone plan budget. If you spend more than the basic monthly plan for text messages and phone minutes, that money will be deducted from your allowance.
4. Use good sense - always - about the language you use. Remember that text messages can be forwarded to many other people. You cannot get back a text message after sending it and a message lives on long after you send it.
5. Do not make cell phone calls when you can talk with someone face-to-face (in the house, outside of school, at sports practice...)
6. Phone or text communication should not occur before 7:00 AM in the morning or after 9:00 PM in the evening unless you are communicating with parents or other adult family members. After 9:00 your phone should be turned off and charged. No phone calls should be made or text messages sent during homework time. This time frame can be renegotiated slightly when you are a year older and have demonstrated your willingness to follow our rules.
7. You are responsible for using this phone appropriately. As your parents we have access to your phone content, because it is our responsibility to ensure that you are communicating safely and respectfully. As your parents we are ultimately responsible for your behavior.

Understandings About Your Phone/Video Camera

1. The camera in your phone is fun to use but it, too, is not a toy.
2. When photographing other people, you are expected to ask permission unless there is an emergency. Respect those who say "no." You can get in big trouble taking an inappropriate picture.
3. Use good sense about the pictures you take. If adults you know might have questions about a picture, take that as a hint not to send it from your phone (or your digital camera).
4. What you think is funny or cool may not be funny or cool to others.
5. Any picture you send from your camera phone has the potential to travel to millions of other people. It can be forwarded anywhere. Once sent you cannot get it back. A digital picture lives on long after you send it.
6. Before sending a picture or video, always ask yourself if it is respectful, and be sure it does not make fun of someone or something, thereby making other people feel bad.
7. They say that a picture/photo is worth a thousand words.
8. All of the personal safety rules you have learned including protecting yourself, your body, and your location and your family (and those of your friends) should be followed when using the phone to send pictures (see #4 and #5 just above).

Final Comment About Your Cell Phone/Camera

It is a privilege, not a right, to own a cell phone. If there is a problem with content, a decision will be made based on what happened, not what you thought would happen. If at any time this tool is misused, we reserve the option of removing this phone from your care for a time to enable you to think about appropriate use of your cell phone.

phone owner

date

parents

date