

Dear (NAME),

Congratulations. You have proven yourself mature and responsible enough for your own cell phone. Given that you have a new cell phone in your hands, we obviously trust you to make good decisions – so why are we making you sign this covenant that's loaded with stuff you probably already know?

Well, let's get to the point.

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

The goal of this agreement is to make sure that you're always safe, and that we always maintain a direct and open line of communication. We're asking that you always use your phone for good and to ask for help from us or a trusted adult (like your aunts and grandma) when a situation leaves you feeling scared or unsure at all.

Please review this contract and be sure to ask us any questions that you may have.

With much love,

Proverbs 4:23 Guard your heart. It is the wellspring of life.

## PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT

Agreement to begin using the phone. Initial each statement showing you are in agreement and will follow the intent and letter of each point:

1. I agree to pay a deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ to be used in the unfortunate event that the phone is lost, stolen, or broken in any way, for any reason, by any person. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
2. I agree to pay 3 months of services charges up front totaling \_\_\_\_\_.(Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
3. I agree to work to earn the amount needed to cover service charges weekly by doing pre-assigned work. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Should I not work to earn the amount during a week, I understand the following week I will not use the phone until the debt is paid. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
5. If for some reason (sick or vacation) I am unable to fulfill my obligation, I will make alternative arrangements for payment and agree to allow my parents to remove the allotted amount from my savings if I do not. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Should I ever become behind in payment I understand my phone will be removed as a privilege until all debts are paid. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
7. It is my responsibility to pay for any accessory I want for the phone. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT THE PHONE IS USED FOR

- Safety – The phone may be used to ensure you are safe and can be used for emergency. This is the main reason you have a phone at your age.
- Communication – The phone is a simple quick ways to check in with mom and dad, but it never takes the place of face to face conversations.
- Fun – Learning can be fun using the phone. It should never take the place of physical activity and reading books though.

## USAGE

1. I understand that the rules 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 wise choices that honor God. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
2. I promise that my parents will always know my phone passwords. I understand that my parents have a right to look at my phone whenever they want to, even without permission. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_

3. I will always use the phone in full view, and will never have it in my room, bathroom, or other private location. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
4. I promise not to change or try to change any restrictions or passcodes and I will not try to get around the restrictions or protective measures put in place. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
5. I promise not to view my phone until I have spent time with Jesus in prayer and Bible reading. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
6. I understand that I am representing the Bordeau family and Jesus in how I behave related to the phone and that my behavior on the phone can impact my reputation – even in ways I am not able to predict or see. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
7. I understand that all texts, photos, searches and views are public and I promise not look at or search for anything I would not want my mom, dad, or grandma to see. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
8. All of my adult family members or adult life group members are allowed to randomly ask to see anything on my phone and I promise to hand them my phone promptly if/when asked. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
9. I will not send or receive any photos that I wouldn't show my parents or grandma. Ever. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
10. I promise to tell my parents when I receive suspicious, alarming, or unsettling phone calls, text messages, game requests, emails or correspondence from anyone, regardless of who they are, even if I don't know them. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
11. I promise to tell my parents if someone is being mean, harassing, or bullying with my phone or on my phone. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
12. I will make an effort to learn phone and internet manners. I understand this is an extension of normal manners. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
13. I will promptly hand the phone to one of my parents at \_\_\_\_\_ every school night and every weekend night at \_\_\_\_\_. I will get it back at \_\_\_\_\_ on school days (if I am completely ready for school) and at \_\_\_\_\_ weekend days. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
14. I will not be on my phone on school nights/weekends until all chores and homework are done. I understand the amount of screen time is determined on a day by day basis. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
15. On Sundays (or other designated days) I will only use my phone for texting. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
16. I will turn off, silence and put my phone away in public- especially at the dinner table, church, restaurant, movies, or while speaking with another human being. I am not a rude person. I will not allow the phone to change the important part of who I am. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
17. I will never use the phone or social media to tease, harass, bully or be mean to anyone, even if others think it is funny. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_

18. I will not let others use my phone, unless my parents give me permission first.  
(Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
19. I will not give my number or information to anyone without my parent's permission, and I will not add someone else's contact information without my parent's permission. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
20. 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. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_
21. I understand this agreement will need to be reviewed and maybe even updated at least every six months. (Initial here) \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that this is NOT my phone and that it was paid for by my parents. Having this phone is not a right – it is a privilege that can be taken away. As such, I have read this document and agree to the above rules. I understand if I have any questions I should talk to my parents face-to-face.

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Signature

#### TEXTING MANNERS

1. Consider who is receiving the text. Be sure all texts are appropriate enough for your grandma to read.
2. Communicate clearly. Re-read your texts before pressing send to be sure there are no misspellings or incorrect punctuation.
3. Respond promptly but do not expect your reader to.
4. Never respond to rude, mean, crude, or inappropriate texts.
5. Never respond to a number you do not know, even by asking "who is this."
6. Only use symbols and emojis when necessary. Too many of either will clutter a message and are not cute.
7. Do not text more than twice if the person has not responded.
8. Never texts in all caps. IT SEEMS LIKE YELLING.
9. Do not text more than 3 or 4 lines. If you need to say that much, make a phone call or wait until you are face to face.
10. Never argue over text.
11. Never send anything private over text.
12. Know when to end the conversation. If the person hasn't text you back, be patient.