

Dear \_\_\_\_insert PreTeen Name\_\_\_\_

DATE

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**You've proven yourself mature and responsible enough for a cell phone.**

*You are a good and responsible \_\_insert age and gender\_\_ and you deserve this gift and privilege. But, with the acceptance of this present comes rules and regulations. Please read through the following contract. I hope that you understand it is our job to raise you into a well-rounded, polite, healthy young \_lady/gentleman\_\_ that can function in the world and coexist with technology, not be ruled by it. Our desire is for you to continue to teach you to love the Lord and glorify Him in all you do, including using the use of this phone we are sharing with you. If we see this phone is taking you away from any of those hopes and desires, we will take appropriate measures.*

This means...failure to comply with the following list will result in termination of *your iPhone ownership.*

*And, you must full respect this:*

***A cell phone is more than a piece of technology. 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.***

We love you and look forward to sharing several million phone calls and text messages with you in the days to come.

1. It is our phone. We bought it. We pay for it. We are loaning it to you. Aren't we the greatest?
2. Do not set a password that we don't know. We will always have access. Do not give your password to others or let ANYONE use your phone EVER! Only exception – someone needs to call their parent.
3. If it rings, answer it but only if you are not having a conversation with someone else. Don't be rude to those you are with. With one exception- Do not ever ignore a phone call if the screen reads "Mom" or "Dad." Not ever. No matter what. Excuse yourself if necessary, but **always** answer our calls.
4. The phone will not be used in privacy or in your room. The same is true for your friend's devices while at our home. Phone use will be stopped at 7:00 p.m. every school night (except for late practices, then 15 mins after that) and every weekend night at 9:00 p.m (unless at a friend's house). Once it is turned to airplane mode for the night, it can be turned on again at 7:30 a.m. We do not want your phone interfering with your much needed sleep. Your phone "goes to bed" each day plugged in in your parent's room.
5. Your phone will be turned off during school and kept put away in your backpack. It is there for EMERGENCY use only. Have a conversation with the people you text at home- in person. It's a life skill.

6. If it falls into the toilet, smashes on the ground, or vanishes into thin air, you are responsible for the replacement costs. Go ahead and babysit, stash some birthday money, etc. It will most likely happen; you should be prepared.
7. Do not use this technology to lie, fool, or deceive another human being. Do not involve yourself in conversations that are hurtful to others. Be a good friend first and stay out of hurtful, mean, or disrespectful conversations or texts.
8. Do not text, email, or say anything through this device you would not say in person. Do not text, email, or say anything to someone that you would not say out loud with their parents in the room. Censor yourself.
9. Do not communicate with ANYONE we do not personally know unless you come and tell us about them FIRST!
10. Nothing inappropriate should ever be on the screen of your phone. Search the web for information you would openly share with me. If you have a question about anything, ask a person -- preferably one of us.
11. Turn it off, silence it, put it away in public. Especially in church, a restaurant, at the movies, or while speaking with another human being. Do not bring it to the dinner table. You are not a rude person; do not allow the iPhone to change that.
12. Do not send or receive pictures of your private parts or anyone else's private parts or anything inappropriate or revealing. Don't laugh. Someday you will be tempted to do this despite your high intelligence. It is risky and could ruin your teenage/college/adult life. It is always a bad idea. Cyberspace is vast and more powerful than you. And it is hard to make anything of this magnitude disappear -- including a bad reputation.
13. Don't take a zillion pictures and videos. There is no need to document everything. Live your experiences. They will be stored in your memory for eternity.
14. Leave your phone home sometimes when you are with us and feel safe and secure in that decision. It is not alive or an extension of you. Learn to live without it. Be bigger and more powerful than FOMO (fear of missing out) on a text or phone call- you can always return them later.
15. Play a game with words or puzzles or brain teasers every now and then.
16. Keep your eyes up. See the world happening around you. Stare out a window. Listen to the birds. Take a walk. Talk to a stranger. Wonder without googling. Be present where you physically are. NEVER TEXT and DRIVE! I know this is early but start considering this. Despite what others say, you can't multi task; let us know if others text and drive.
17. We have the right to read all text messages and monitor all activity on the phone. This is not because we do not trust you - it is because it is our phone and you are our \_\_daughter/son\_\_. Before you send it, think would I want Jesus to read this? Or my parents? Or other parents? And, if it's sent to you – think, how does this make me feel? Remember, is it TRUE, HELPFUL, INSPIRING, NECESSARY, KIND? If have someone violating this, come talk to us! Remember Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right,

whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

18. Keep it charged- always! If for some reason it is not charged and it dies when you are not with us, you must call us right away from someone else's phone so we know that you are ok and how we can contact you.

19. You may not purchase anything on your phone without our permission -FIRST! (Not after.)

20. You will mess up. We will take away your phone. We will sit down and talk about it. We will start over again. Together, we are always learning. We are on your team. We are in this together.

*It is our hope that you can agree to these terms. Most of the lessons listed here do not just apply to the iPhone, but to life. You are growing up in a fast and ever-changing world. It is exciting and enticing. Keep it simple every chance you get. Trust your powerful mind and giant heart above any machine. We love you. We hope you enjoy your awesome new iPhone privilege.*

Remember we are your biggest fans!

Love you MORE and the SAME! Love, Mom and Dad

**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 the following document and agree to the above rules. I understand that if I have any questions, I should talk to my parents face-to-face.**

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P.S. from God – Remember because you know me and recognize Jesus as your Savior, you represent the Kingdom.