

iPhone Contract between those who Love each other

Congratulations!! You've proven yourself mature and responsible enough to manage a cell phone. YOU are a treasure, a great guy. This contract is a safety and an encouragement to you, to continue to make smart choices and be the best you. Today, technology can take over people's people skills and people's peopleness. We request that you read, understand and agree to the following 18 rules as a guide for both purity and a personal admission that 'technology isn't everything'. The cell phone is a wonderful invention and tool to enhance the art of personal communication, but should never replace it.

1. It is equally our phone. We gave permission and bought it. We pay for you to keep it. We are loaning it to you. Aren't we the greatest?
2. We will always know the password. We will check your phone messages/texts/music regularly and without warning. Yes, we love you that much.
3. If it rings, answer it. Say hello, and use your manners. Do not ever ignore a phone call if the screen reads "Mom" or "Dad". Not ever.
4. You will dock the phone outside your room at an agreed upon and appropriate time every school night & every weekend night. It will be shut off for the night and you can resume again at 6:30am as appropriate. If you would not make a call to someone's landline, due to the lateness of hour or the dinner hour or another inappropriate time, then do not call or text on your cell phone at that time either. Listen to those instincts and respect other families as we would like to be respected.
5. Do not text or call on your phone during class at school. Have a conversation with the people you text in person. It's a life skill. Be with the people you're with.
6. If it falls into the toilet, smashes on the ground, or vanishes into thin air, you are responsible for the replacement costs or repairs. Mow a lawn, cut some firewood, stash some birthday cash. It will 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 or can be wrongfully interpreted. Some things, many things, are worth saying out loud if at all.
8. Do not text, email, or say anything through this device you would not say in person. Really think about that one.
9. Do not text, email, or say anything to someone that you would not say out loud with their parents in the room. Censor yourself.
10. No pornographic or sexual material on this device will ever be tolerated, as we love you way too much for that. Surf the web only for information you would openly share with us. If you have a question about anything, ask a person; preferably me or your father. We will always tell you the truth and nothing you ask will startle or otherwise bring judgement on you. It is our great honor to engage with you and we care about any issue you care about.

11. Turn it off, silence it and/or put it away in public. Especially in a restaurant, at the movies, travelling with friends in a car, or while speaking with another human being. You are not a rude person; do not allow the iPhone to change that.

12. Do not send or receive naked pictures of you or anyone else. 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, because it was never God's idea. Cyberspace is vast and more powerful than you. And it is hard to make a bad reputation disappear. NEVER use your phone or social media to bully or tease anyone, even if friends think it's funny. Resolve to speak life.

13. Don't take a zillion pictures and videos. There is no need to document everything. Live your experiences. They stay in your memory for a lifetime.

14. Leave your phone home sometimes 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. You're always enough without it. Others are too.

15. Download only music with a positive message. If you wouldn't play it for us, don't download it for you. Choose what you like even if it's different than the millions of your peers that listen to the same exact stuff. Your generation has access to music like never before in history. Take advantage of that gift. Expand your horizons. You be you.

16. Don't text and drive. Don't text and drive. Don't text and drive. Understand that it's very dangerous and pretty stupid.

17. Keep your eyes up often. See the world happening around you. Stare at the wonder of nature as often as you do a screen. Notice new things. Talk to a stranger. Wonder without googling.

18. You will likely mess up. We will likely take away your phone. All of us will sit down and talk about it. We will start over again. You & us, we are always learning. On a journey together. Always growing. We are on your team. We are in this together.

I commit to follow the above rules and guides and accept that my phone is a privilege.

Sign Here _____ Date _____