

IMPORTANT WEB SITES

www.wirelessamberalerts.org

Sign up to receive AMBER Alerts as free text messages on your cell phone if a child is abducted in your area



www.ncpc.org

National Crime Prevention Council—Information to keep children safe

www.connectsafely.org

A non-profit interactive forum and resource center providing tips and videos, plus a place to ask questions, comment on issues, and discuss youth online safety with parents, experts, and teens

www.safekids.com

One of the Net's oldest and most comprehensive Internet safety sites

www.netfamilynews.org

Kid-tech news for parents—the nonprofit “community newspaper” of tech parenting and children’s online safety

www.cybertipline.com

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children’s hotline for reporting online child sexual exploitation; available 24/7 at 1-800-843-5678

www.getnetwise.org

Online-safety advice and a searchable database of parental-controls software from the Washington, D.C. based Internet Education Foundation

www.childnet.com

A comprehensive UK-based site with multimedia online-safety resources, including a powerful short film on cyberbullying, “Let’s Fight It Together”—www.digizen.org/cyberbullying/film.aspx

www.CSRIU.org

Cyberbullying information from the Center for Safe & Responsible Internet Use

www.netsmartz.org

Online-safety education for kids, parents, educators, and law enforcement from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

www.staysafe.org

Online-safety information for teens, parents, educators, and seniors, operated with support from Microsoft

A FEW THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT...

Text messages—type in words (or abbreviations), hit send, and the message is instantly sent to another phone or email address.

Picture messages—most phones now have cameras, so it is easy to take a picture and send it to anyone at anytime.

Internet—it is now possible to check email and access the World Wide Web on most cell phones.

Record sound or image—many cell phones allow instant recording of any audio or video.

You may want to review the following information with your child:

CELL PHONE COURTESY

- ★ Remember to speak in a normal or quiet voice when on your phone.
- ★ Follow all signs—some places like hospitals or airplanes have rules about using cell phones.
- ★ Turn your phone to silent or vibrate before you go into religious services or other places where noise is not appropriate.
- ★ When you are with your friends or family, talk to them instead of talking on your phone.

CELL PHONE SAFETY

- ★ Program your parents’/guardians’ phone numbers into your phone for easy access.
- ★ Don’t respond to a text or picture message from someone you don’t know.
- ★ If you receive anything on your phone—a call, a text message, a picture or voicemail message—that makes you uncomfortable, tell an adult you trust.
- ★ Do not give out your address or other personal information if others can hear you.
- ★ If there is an emergency, don’t wait, call 9-1-1.

The Wireless Foundation
www.wirelessfoundation.org

Connect Safely
Smart Connecting Starts Here™

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FAMILY GUIDE



CELL PHONE SAFETY

Who is your child texting? What text messages are being received? Do you know? Weekly Reader Custom Publishing, The Wireless Foundation, and Connect Safely have teamed up to bring you important information about text messaging and cell phone use in general. Your child is participating in this program at school. We hope you will reinforce what

your son or daughter has learned with conversations at home about safety and courtesy on cellular devices.



Inside this pamphlet is a contract for you and your child.

It will help keep your child’s cell phone use safe and constructive.



FAMILY CONTRACT FOR RESPONSIBLE CELL PHONE USE



TIPS FOR TALKING AND TEXTING

- ★ Do not give out personal information on a phone call or over the Internet on a cellular device.
- ★ Do not respond to emails or text messages if the sender is unknown.
- ★ Send appropriate text or picture messages only.
- ★ Turn cellular devices to silent or vibrate in situations where it is necessary, such as in movie theaters.
- ★ Be aware of surroundings and understand when talking or texting is appropriate and when it is not.
- ★ Keep your voice down if there are other people in the vicinity.

The more advanced cellular devices become, the more functions they have available. Sending pictures over the Internet is something that children do all the time. Photo-messaging on cell phones is no different. Children need to be aware why not all pictures are appropriate to send. They also need to know that if they receive a message or image that makes them uncomfortable, they should immediately tell you or another trusted adult.

CHILD:

I will follow all school rules about cell phone use.

I will answer my phone if my parent calls, or return the call immediately if I'm in a restricted use area.

I will not use my phone to share photos that could embarrass me or others now or in the future.

I will not share photos of other people without their permission.

I will not talk or send text messages about people in a way that hurts them or their reputation.

I will not pass along or give any other support to a hurtful message sent to me about someone else.

I will not download, add, or subscribe to anything on my phone without my parents'/guardians' permission.

I will not disable any parental controls on my phone.

If I'm uncomfortable with anything on my phone, I'll talk to my parents/guardians about it.

I will not talk or text with anyone I don't know; I will tell my parents if a stranger keeps trying to contact me.

I will not use my phone to arrange meetings with anybody I don't know.

I will stay within my plan's usage limits and review my usage with a parent/guardian if I go over those limits.

PARENT /GUARDIAN:

I will periodically talk with my child about using a cell phone.

I will not take away my child's cell phone if my child comes to me about a problem concerning content or contact on a phone unless my child is in danger or has disregarded family rules. Instead, we will work together to try to solve the problem and to make sure my child makes good choices.

I will set reasonable consequences if any of the above rules are broken.

I will periodically revisit these rules as my child matures and cell phone technology evolves.

Other terms your family wants to add:

We have talked about and understand the terms and consequences of this contract and promise to honor them.

Signed: _____
(Date)

(Child)

(Parent/Guardian)