

smartphone contract

_____, congratulations on your first cell phone!

Today you are receiving the use of an _____ and paid cellular service for _____ months. This deal will expire at the end of _____.

We count it a privilege to be your parents. God has given us so much joy by placing you in our family. (Not to mention that you are single-handedly responsible for all of our grey hair. ☺) We consider it our God-given responsibility to raise a young man who loves the Lord and walks with Him daily. It is our responsibility to do our best to help you be a well-rounded young man who can master technology without it mastering you. You must agree to the following guidelines in order to take possession of this phone.

I have carefully and thoughtfully read the article, *"So, You Got Your First Smartphone..."*.
Initial here: _____

I understand that these rules are for my safety and that you love me. I understand you want to give me freedom, while also giving me enough security to make smart choices.
Initial here: _____

You will always know my phone passwords. I will not download any apps without your knowledge. I will not sign up for any accounts without your knowledge and permission.
Initial here: _____

I understand that any parental blocks or filters have been installed for my safety. Even though this can be a hassle, I know it is for my good. I will not try and circumvent these restrictions.
Initial here: _____

I understand that you have the right to look at my phone whenever you want to, even without my permission.
Initial here: _____

I will hand the phone to one of you promptly at 7 pm every school night and every weekend night at 9 pm. I will get it back from you in the morning.
Initial here: _____

I will always promptly answer any call from you and I will return any texts from you immediately, unless safety or etiquette do not allow me to.
Initial here: _____

I will learn phone and internet etiquette. I understand this is an extension of normal manners. I will turn off, silence, and put my phone away in public—especially in a restaurant, at the movies, or while speaking with another human being. I am not a rude person. I will not allow the phone to change this important part of who I am.

Initial here: _____

I will not allow alerts on my phone to be more important than the humans that are in my presence.

Initial here: _____

My phone is not a diversion from real life. I will not use it simply because I am bored or uncomfortable. It will not be my security blanket or escape pod.

Initial here: _____

I will not allow FOMO (fear of missing out) to control my behavior. I am master of my phone. I will not be mastered by it.

Initial here: _____

I have a high respect for my family and friends' privacy. I will never post or share photos, videos, or information about them without their permission.

Initial here: _____

I will not send or receive naked photos. Ever. I understand that this is not only immoral but also really stupid.

Initial here: _____

I will never search for porn or anything else that I wouldn't want _____ or Jesus finding on my phone.

Initial here: _____

I understand that my behavior on my phone can impact my future reputation—even in ways that I am not able to predict or see.

Initial here: _____

I promise I will tell you when I receive suspicious or alarming phone calls or text messages from people I don't know. I will also tell you if I am being harassed by someone via my phone.

Initial here: _____

When I am old enough, I won't text and drive. I understand it's very dangerous and pretty stupid.

Initial here: _____

I will not use this technology to lie, fool, or deceive another human being. I will not involve myself in conversations that are hurtful to others. I understand that slander and gossip are inappropriate in any context.

Initial here: _____

I will NEVER use my phone or social media to bully or tease anyone, even if my friends think it's funny.

Initial here: _____

I will not text, email, or say anything through this device that I would not say in person.

Initial here: _____

I will not text, email, or say anything to someone that I would not say out loud with their parents in the room. I will censor myself. I understand that this device is not a private forum for me and my friends.

Initial here: _____

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: _____

I will not use this device to document every aspect of my life through pictures and videos. I will live my experiences, not try and document them for others.

Initial here: _____

I will leave my phone home sometimes and feel safe and secure in that decision. It is not an appendage. I can live without it.

Initial here: _____

I will keep my eyes up. I will always see the world happening around me. I will stare out a window. I will listen to the birds. I will take a walk without looking at a screen. I will wonder without Googling.

Initial here: _____

If it falls into the toilet, smashes on the ground, or vanishes into thin air, I am responsible for the replacement costs or repairs.

Initial here: _____

I understand that this is NOT my phone and that you paid for it. 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 that if I have any questions, I can, as always, talk to you.

_____ Sign _____ Date