



# CELL PHONE CONTRACT

Dr. Dave Currie

For the home of the \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The following contract includes the restrictions and guidelines for acceptable Cell Phone use within our family. In exchange for your permission to use a cell phone appropriate to your age level, you must agree to and consistently comply with the following rules. The term of this contract is 6 months. Similar guidelines will be assumed for all our iPads, tablets, iPods, lap tops, desk top computers etc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

## CELL PHONE ACCESS & USAGE

**LEVEL 1—MINE:** for ages 10–14 – the cell phone is fully paid for by parents. There can be shared use of one of the family's mobile devices when needed and approved for special or situational use only.

**LEVEL 2—OURS:** for ages 14–16 – the cell phone payment is shared by parent and teen given greater by still limited use of the phone as it is co-owned by parents. It is turned in after use as agreed. Limits/restrictions are discussed and adhered to.

**LEVEL 3—YOURS:** for ages 16 and up – full use of the cell phone and fully paid by the teen. Internet use limited as per household rules. No use of the phone between 11pm and 7am. Parents can have access to the phone for monitoring.

## OUR FAMILY CELL PHONE RULES

1. I understand that regardless of what popular culture and my peers may think, within our family, using a cell phone is a **privilege** much like driving a car. I earn the right to use one by displaying mature attitudes and responsible behavior. Having a phone is not my right.
2. I accept that I do not own or control the phone even if I am paying for part or all of the plan. I am paying for the privilege of using it within these family rules. My use can be taken away at any time for any reason.
3. I will share all my passwords to any program or app I download and to the phone itself and will allow my parents to check it at any time with or without my knowledge.
4. I will not attempt to use the phone or other online electronic device at night. The cell phone that I have access to will go to the agreed family charging station (not in my room) 30 minutes before bedtime or by \_\_\_\_ pm, whatever is earlier.
5. During family meal times, I won't have the phone at the table for 20 minutes so as to be free of messages or text distractions. I will give my attention to family.
6. Observe Etiquette—I will excuse myself to take calls that I am permitted to take (coaches, teachers, bosses or rides). Otherwise, I'll give undivided attention in the moment—face to face to those at the table. Family time is to be priority.
7. I will fully comply with all my school and youth group rules and restrictions for cell phone use.
8. While driving, I will not attempt to make or take a call unless connected to the handsfree feature of the car. Otherwise, I will pull over to take the call or wait until my destination to return the text or call. Like oil and water, driving and cell phones in your hands – CANNOT mix.

9. While driving, I will not have my phone in my hands for any reason. I will not attempt to text anyone, search online or for any reason be focused on my phone. I will pull over first!
10. I will not send, forward or store any photos or videos of nudity, violence, pornography or any other unlawful activity whether I am involved in it or not. No exchanging of sexual images.
11. I will not send or upload any inappropriate or questionable texts or photos of myself or any compromising texts or photos of others – No sexting.
12. I will not use my phone for hurting or manipulating others—bullying, gossiping, rumors or hate mail.
13. I will not text or talk using swear words, vulgar, obscene or sexual language.
14. I won't search for any pornographic or other questionable websites or download content that is inappropriate or sexually explicit in any way. Porn is out. Protection software may be installed as needed.
15. I will inform my parents if I receive any questionable or alarming phone calls, texts, photos and/or emails. I will get their input on how to best handle it.
16. I will inform my parents if I am being harassed, bullied or pressured by anyone through my phone.
17. I agree that my parents have a right to request to see my phone and/or look through my phone at any time. I will not delete my search history logs of texts, websites or emails without their permission.
18. My parents have the right to look through my contacts, videos, photos and any other content saved on my phone. I agree they have full access for I choose to live with nothing to hide before God or man.
19. I will respond to my parent's calls or texts immediately or as soon as possible in any given situation. They have a right to know where I am, who I am with and what I am up to.
20. I accept that the following reasons are valid criteria for my phone to be taking away or have limited use:
  - a. Poor school performance – missing assignments, skipping school, low grades.
  - b. Poor treatment to others in the family.
  - c. Not doing my household chores.
  - d. Displaying disrespectful or negative attitudes to family or others.
  - e. Living in disobedience or with defiant behaviors.
  - f. Any attempt to deceive my parents will cause my punishment will double.
  - g. Not following the cell phone agreement here that I will sign.
21. I understand that failure to follow and respect any of these rules can result in the loss of my cell phone use for any length of time as determined by my parents.

**Teen Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**For the 6-month period of** \_\_\_\_\_ **to** \_\_\_\_\_.