

# “Safe Home” Family Rules

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Congratulations on having access to a cell phone. You’ve worked hard the past few years to earn our trust through \_\_\_\_\_. We’re proud of the way you’ve grown in wisdom and we encourage you to keep doing that now with a phone.

Technology is like fire: when used correctly it can be a wonderful tool, but used incorrectly it can cause great damage to you and others. The difference is how you choose to use it. There are many great things available online that we can enjoy and participate in. There are, however, many things that are dangerous, unwise, unhelpful and sinful.

We believe with God’s help you can exert wisdom and make wise choices with the phone. As you get older and interact with your friends online, this will become more and more important. In order to help you enjoy the phone, and to assist you in learning to make wise choices with technology, it is important to remember using a cell phone is a privilege, but it is not a right. As your parents, we seek to help guide you with the phone now so you can make wise decisions as you grow up into adulthood.

## General safety guidelines:

1. Do not give out your personal information (name, address, school, names of family or friends, etc.) online for any reason.
2. If you see or hear of anything that makes you uncomfortable or doesn’t seem right or wise, let Mom and Dad know.
3. You are not to communicate with anybody online you do not know.
4. You are not to be mean, rude, dishonest or disrespectful to anyone for any reason. We treat others with respect, in person and online.
5. Be smart and wise at all times.

## Specific guidelines for the phone:

1. This phone is not yours. It belongs to Mom and Dad and we are allowing you to use it. Should you misuse it, we will take it back into our possession.
2. Time with people is more important than time on a screen. Therefore, when you are not treating people well you will forfeit the opportunity to use the phone.
3. The phone is to be used in visible areas of the house and will not be used in your room, unless permission is granted by us.
4. The phone must be charged at night in a room of Mom and Dad’s choosing and will not be in your room at bedtime.
5. Do not download any apps or make any purchases without first receiving permission from us.
6. No inappropriate searches, web browsing or online activity will be allowed at any time.
7. Mom and Dad are allowed to see the content on the phone (including texts) at any time. Information can only be deleted with our permission.
8. The phone can go to school with you but must remain in your backpack and locker at all times. It must not be used at the bus stop, on the bus or during school hours. Failure to do so will result in the phone being confiscated.
9. Staying on top of your schoolwork is more important than being on the phone. Irresponsibility with school responsibilities will result in loss of phone privileges.
10. There will be no arguing, complaining, blaming, nagging or disrespecting us about usage of the phone.

If you do not follow all of the guidelines listed above, the phone can be taken away at any time.

These guidelines will be posted in the house to remind us all of our agreement. We love you, we trust you, and we want to help guide you to make wise choices with technology, choices that are for your good and God’s glory. We believe this will help our family be healthy, wise and fun!

We agree wholeheartedly that \_\_\_\_\_ will use the phone wisely and in a way that honors God, honors others and honors yourself and we understand failure to do so will result in the phone being taken away.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Son/Daughter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mom/Dad

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date