



# The Family Online Safety Contract\*



Chapel Hill Police Department  
Technical Services Unit  
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*An agreement between*

*and*

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*Child*

*Parent*

**\*Adapted from various online safety pledges  
and contracts developed by multiple entities:**

Internet Content Ratings Association ([icra.org/kids/familycontract](http://icra.org/kids/familycontract))

SafeKids.com ([www.safekids.com/contract\\_kid.htm](http://www.safekids.com/contract_kid.htm))

The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library ([www.mrcpl.lib.oh.us/WebContract.htm](http://www.mrcpl.lib.oh.us/WebContract.htm))

Federal Trade Commission Cyberpassport ([www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/online/sitesee](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/online/sitesee))

911paging.com ([www.paging.com/internetsafety/internetcontract.htm](http://www.paging.com/internetsafety/internetcontract.htm))

I-SAFE America ([www.isafe.org/contract-printable.html](http://www.isafe.org/contract-printable.html))

## Parents' Contract

*I know that the Internet can be a wonderful place for my kids to visit. I also know that I must do my part to help keep them safe on their visits. Understanding that my kids can help me, I agree to follow these rules:*

- ✓ I will get to know the services and websites my child uses.
- ✓ I will set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer use by my children and I will discuss these rules and post them near the computer as a reminder.
- ✓ I will not overreact if my child tells me about something “bad” he or she finds or does on the Internet.
- ✓ I will try to get to know my child’s “online friends” and Buddy List contacts just as I try to get to know his or her other friends.
- ✓ I will try to put the home computer in a family area.
- ✓ I will report suspicious and illegal activity and sites to the proper authorities.
- ✓ I will make or find a list of recommended sites for children.
- ✓ I will frequently check to see where my kids have visited on the Internet.
- ✓ I will seek options for filtering and blocking inappropriate Internet material from my children.
- ✓ I will talk to my kids about their online explorations and take online adventures with them as often as I can.

I agree to the above.

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Parent signature(s)

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Date

I understand that my parents have agreed to live by these rules and I agree to help my parents explore the Internet with me.

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Child signature

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Date

## **Child's Contract**

*I know that the Internet can be a wonderful place to visit. I also know that it is important for me to follow rules that will keep me safe on my visits. I agree to the following rules:*

- ✓ I will choose a safe and sensible screen name that will not reveal personal information about my family or myself.
- ✓ I will keep my password private, except from my parents. I will not sign up for other e-mail accounts without my parents' approval.
- ✓ I will not put my personal information in my profile. I will not share my personal information or that of my parents or any other family member, in any way, shape or form, online or with someone I meet online. This includes, but is not limited to name, address, telephone number, age or school name.
- ✓ I will treat others the way I want to be treated.
- ✓ I will use good manners when I'm online, including good language and respect. I will not pick fights or use threatening or mean words.
- ✓ I will make my own personal safety my priority, since I know there are some people who might be online and pretend to be someone they're not.
- ✓ I will be honest with my parents about people I meet online and will tell them, without always being asked, about these people. I won't answer any e-mails or instant messages from anyone my parents have not approved.
- ✓ If I see or read things that are bad, icky or mean, I will log off and tell my parents so they can make sure it never happens again.
- ✓ I will tell my parents if I receive pictures, links to bad sites, e-mail or instant messages with bad language or if I'm in a chat room where people are using swear words or mean and hateful language.
- ✓ I will not send anything to anyone I've met online, without my parents' okay. If I get something from someone I've met online, I'll tell my parents immediately (because that means they have my private information).

- ✓ I will not do anything that someone I've met online asks me to, especially when I know it's something my parents would not be happy about or approve of.
- ✓ I will not call, write a snail mail or meet in person anyone who I've met online without my parents' approval or without a parent coming with me.
- ✓ I understand my parents will supervise my time online and use software to monitor or limit where I go online. They're doing this because they love me and want to protect me.
- ✓ I will teach my parents more about the Internet so we can have fun together and learn cool new things.

I agree to the above.

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Child signature

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Date

I promise to protect my child's safety online by making sure these rules are followed. If my child encounters unsafe situations and tells me, I will handle each situation with maturity and good sense, without blaming anyone, and will calmly work through it with my child to ensure safer Internet experiences in the future.

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Parent signature(s)

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Date