



The following is an agreement between:

_____ and _____
Child and Parent

Parent's Pledge

While the Internet can be a fun and educational place for children to visit, parents must do their part to help children access this vast resource safely. With that goal in mind, I agree to the following rules:

1. I will take the time to familiarize myself with the services my children use and the sites they access, and I will talk to my children about their online activities and participate with them as often as I can.
2. I will set reasonable guidelines and restrictions on my children's computer use. The rules will be reviewed by everyone and posted near the computer as a constant reminder that with freedom comes responsibility.
3. I will encourage my children to talk to me when they have a suspicious feeling or negative experience online, and I will not overreact if my child tells me if he or she has accessed something negative on the Internet.
4. For children under the age of 15, I will know the passwords to their online accounts.
5. I will help my children assess and manage their online friends, buddy lists, and contacts just like I do with all their friends.
6. I will put the home computer in the most public area of the home as possible.
7. I will help my children learn to read and evaluate online privacy policies and take the time to understand the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). (See <http://www.ftc.gov/privacy/coppafaqs.shtm> and <http://www.ftc.gov/ogc/coppa1.htm>)
8. I will teach my children that the difference between right and wrong is the same on the Internet as it is in real life and that they must conduct themselves with the same proper behavior expected offline.
9. I will go over what information they are allowed to give online, what information I must approve in advance, and what information should never be given. (See: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/edcams/kidzprivacy/kidz.htm>)
10. I will teach my children how to evaluate the quality of the information they find online so they don't believe everything they read. (See: <http://www.quick.org.uk/menu.htm>)
11. I will work with my children who are 10-years-old or younger to develop, on an ongoing basis, a list of approved sites that they can safely visit anytime and monitor their access by viewing the browser's history log to ensure they are visiting only those sites.
12. I will establish a system for getting my approval to visit new sites for children between the ages 11-14 and will monitor that they are following this protocol by viewing the browser's history log.

13. I will allow greater access to online resources that are appropriate for a variety of entertainment and educational purposes for children age 15 or older who have shown responsible online behavior in the past and will monitor that access to ensure the sites accessed remain appropriate by periodically viewing the browser's history log.
14. I will learn about the options available either through my Internet Service Provider or software programs for filtering and blocking inappropriate Internet material from my children.
15. I will report all illegal activity to the proper authorities.

Child's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I understand that my parents have agreed to the rules above so that I can have a safe and positive experience online.

Parent's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Child's Pledge

While I know that the Internet can be a fun and educational place to visit, I also know that I must follow the rules below so that I will be safe while online. I agree to the following rules:

1. I will take the time to read and learn the rules about where I can go online, for how long, when, and what I can do there. I understand that Internet use is a privilege, not a right. I will follow my family's online access rules in my home and when online outside of my own home such as at school, a friend's house, a public library, etc.
2. I will be honest with my parents, and tell them, **without always being asked**, about the people I meet online and the activities I do there.
3. Except for my parents, I will never give out my passwords to anyone, including my friends.
4. I will not sign up for e-mail or online accounts without my parent's approval.
5. I agree not to download, copy, or install files and programs, even from sources claiming they are free, to the computer without my parent's permission.
6. I will not do anything that requires the payment of money without my parent's permission.
7. I will not fill out questionnaires or forms online without my parent's permission.
8. I will not disable any filtering or monitoring software on the computer because it is there to keep me safe. I also will not erase my computer browser's history log.
9. I will not put my personal information like my age, school's name, address, phone number, etc. in any online profiles without the permission of my parents. In fact, I will not share my personal information, or that of my parents or any other family member or friend anywhere online without my parent's permission.
10. I will always choose safe and appropriate screen names that do not reveal personal information about me or my family or are offensive or rude.
11. Since I know some people online pretend to be someone they're not, I will not agree to meet, write, call, give out my personal contact information, or make contact in anyway with individuals I meet online without talking to my parents first. Also, I won't answer any e-mails or instant messages from anyone my

parents have not approved. If I get something from someone I've met online only, I'll tell my parents immediately because that may mean they have my private information.

12. I won't claim to be someone I'm not, either by accessing someone else's screen name and password or pretending to be someone I'm not online.
13. I will be a good online citizen and treat others the way I want to be treated by using good manners when I'm online, including appropriate language and showing respect for others. I will not write anything online that I do not want my parents, teachers, mentors, or spiritual leaders to see.
14. I will not attack, accuse, spread rumors or threaten others while online, and I will never do anything that would be against the law.
15. If I see or read rude, inappropriate, or mean content, I will log off and tell my parents immediately about what I saw and where I saw it. I will also tell my parents if I receive pictures, links to inappropriate sites, e-mail or instant messages with foul language, or if I'm in contact with people who are using swear words or mean and hateful language.
16. I will take care not to believe everything I see or read online. I will check the source and confirm with a parent, teacher, librarian or other reliable adult.
17. I understand my parents will supervise my time online and use software to monitor or limit where I go online because they love me and want to keep me safe.
18. I will learn with my parents more about the Internet so we can have fun and discover new resources, tools, and online activities together.

I agree to the above.

Child's Signature: _____ **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.

Parent's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

This pledge was adapted by MOST (Mothers of Supertwins) from various online safety pledges and information sources including the following:

- Michigan CSI (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ag/Online_Safety_Rules_-_Contract_Universal_Handout_190697_7.pdf)
- ProtectKids.com (<http://www.protectkids.com/parentsafety/pledge.htm>)
- SafeKids.com (www.safekids.com/contract_kid.htm)
- The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (www.mrcpl.lib.oh.us/WebContract.htm)
- Palo Alto Medical Foundation (<http://www.pamf.org/preteen/growingup/choices/safetypledge.html>)
- Federal Trade Commission Cyberpassport (www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/online/sitesee)
- Microsoft Guidelines for Internet Use (<http://www.microsoft.com/protect/family/age/stages.mspx>)
- 911paging.com (www.paging.com/internetsafety/internetcontract.htm)
- I-SAFE America (www.isafe.org/contract-printable.html)
- Kidz Privacy (<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/kidzprivacy/index.html>)