

## Social Media/Mobile Technology Safety Agreement

*The Internet is an important resource and being familiar with it is a necessary skill. It can be a wonderful place to visit, however, everyone must do their part to be safe online.*

To that end, DCFS has created this **Social Media/Mobile Technology Safety Agreement**. This agreement is for youth in care and their caregiver(s) and is intended as a way to help establish clear rules concerning the use of electronic (digital) devices, such as, computers, cell phones, music players, tablets, video gaming systems, and so forth. It is intended to cover usage, discuss safety practices, and to help you become more informed and a responsible user of social media and mobile technology.

Upon placement to a new home/setting, a new **Social Media/Mobile Technology Safety Agreement** will be established within the first 30 days. Your caseworker will review the **Social Media/Mobile Safety Agreement** with you and your caregiver at the caseworker's first monthly visit. This agreement is to be signed by you and your caregiver; you will both be given a copy of this agreement, and a copy will be maintained in your case file. This agreement will be reviewed and may be changed and/or amended as needed in consultation with your caseworker.

You, your caregiver, and your caseworker are to review **Administrative Procedure #28, Use of Social Media/Mobile Technology**. At the conclusion of this initial meeting, this **Social Media/Mobile Technology Safety Agreement** will be completed and discussed together. For additional information and resources please go to [DCFS.Illinois.gov](http://DCFS.Illinois.gov).

### SOCIAL MEDIA RULES

With the understanding that \_\_\_\_\_(youth's name) might use social media accounts and digital devices, we acknowledge and agree to the following safety provisions for any such use:

- We agree to only create accounts on age-appropriate social media sites or applications. Many sites/applications require youth to be 13 or older. Some sites/applications require youth to be 17 or older.
- We agree to discuss and set time limits on the use of digital devices.
- We agree to review age-appropriate video games that might be played by the youth. We understand that some games may be played with others "live" online.
- We agree to keep all log-in and passwords private and not to share them with anyone.
- We agree to not change the log-in or password for any social media account without discussing this together.
- We agree it's important not to share certain personal information on social media and we understand that once information is shared it is public and permanent.
- We agree to not share personal identifying information with anyone using social media and technology devices. With the exception of providing a username for the creation of the youth's account, we will not share names, addresses, home and cell phone numbers, age,

school name, employer or place of business, or any other identifying information regarding the youth's legal relationship with DCFS. We know that this also extends to the youth's family, foster family, parents, caregivers, and others who may reside/live with the youth in care, as well as the caseworker.

- We agree to review the social networks and sites we currently frequent, to discuss how we use these devices, and to disclose the types of information that we discuss on each site.
- We agree to respect other people by not sending or forwarding information via text message and emails including images that could put anyone at risk, embarrass them, or damage their reputation. This could include disclosure of information, images/pictures or videos that could be hurtful, offensive, threatening/harassing, such as "cyber-bullying" or "sexting" etc.
- We will not call, write to, or meet someone in person who we've located or who has contacted us online through social media unless discussed with my caseworker and caregiver.
- In order to protect ourselves, we agree to report any suspicious and/or illegal activity we encounter when visiting any social networking sites to the proper authorities immediately.
- We agree that social media rules developed in this agreement will be posted in a common area of our living quarters.
- We agree to discuss messages or images that we have seen or read that make us feel bad, scared, sad, confused, uncomfortable, or hurtful to ourselves or others.
- We agree to help each other learn how to use social media devices, including basic user knowledge around the technology, maintenance, services and websites, password, and confidentiality protection, setting controls, filtering, and blocking, etc.
- We understand that failure to comply with this agreement may result in reasonable and appropriate consequences, i.e., loss of privileges, restrictions etc. Ground rules of this agreement will be reviewed as needed.

## **SIGNATURES**

My signature below indicates my willingness to follow this agreement.

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Youth's Signature

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Date

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Parent's (Intact) or Caregiver's (Permanency) Signature

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Date

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Caseworker's or Supervisor's Signature

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Date