

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 you and your caregiver and is intended as a way to help establish clear rules concerning the use of social media on 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/mobile technology. In this agreement and in **Administrative Procedure #28, Social Media/Mobile Technology for Youth in Care**, “social media” has the following definition:

“Social Media” means current and future interactive technologies including, but not limited to, text, audio, video, images, podcasts, and other multimedia communications, in virtual communities and online networks.

Upon placement to a new home/setting, a Social Media/Mobile Technology Safety Agreement will be established within the first 30 days. Your caseworker will review and discuss **Administrative Procedure #28** and the agreement with you and your caregiver at the caseworker’s first monthly visit. This agreement will be signed by you and your caregiver; you both will be given a copy of this agreement, and a copy will be maintained in your case record. This agreement will be reviewed and may be changed and/or amended as needed in consultation with your caseworker.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND MOBILE TECHNOLOGY RULES

With the understanding that _____ (youth’s name) might use social media accounts, digital devices and mobile technology, we acknowledge and agree to the following safety provisions for any such use by _____ (youth’s name):

- 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 with anyone.
- We agree to not change the log-in or password for any digital device or 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 user name 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 or the youth’s legal relationship with DCFS. We know that this also extends to the youth’s family, 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, emails, etc., including images that could put anyone at risk, embarrass us or other people, or damage our/their reputation. This could include disclosure of information, images/pictures or videos that could be hurtful, offensive, threatening/harassing, such as “cyberbullying”, “sexting”, etc.
- We will not call, write to, or meet someone in person who we’ve located or who has contacted us online through email or social media unless discussed in advance 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 and digital 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 (e.g., loss of privileges, restrictions, etc.). This agreement will be reviewed as needed.

SIGNATURES

My signature below indicates my willingness to follow this agreement.

Youth’s Signature

Date

Caregiver’s Signature

Date

Caseworker’s Signature

Date