

Family Contract for Online Safety

We, the undersigned, have discussed and agreed to the following rules for using the Internet:

We WILL:

- Be careful about talking to "strangers" on a computer network.
- Respect the privacy of other users on the Internet, just as we expect our privacy to be respected.
- Be careful when downloading (copy) programs from the Internet.
- We will always use a virus scanning program before loading any software on the computer because we understand that some programs on the Internet contain viruses, worms or trojans that will harm our computer.

We Won't:

- Give our passwords to anyone. Passwords are intended to protect our computer and files. Giving out passwords is like giving house keys to a stranger.
- Answer messages that make us feel uncomfortable - because they seem improper, indecent, or threatening! We will tell Mom or Dad right away.
- Give out any personal information. This includes my family's address, phone number, credit card or calling card numbers, school's name, or pictures to anyone on a computer network that we don't know personally.
- Arrange to meet anyone we've met on the Internet. If we feel pressured into meeting anyone, we agree to take parents with us. We will never, under any circumstances, meet anyone without our parents because we know that some people on the Internet lie about who they are, how old they are, and why they want to meet me.
- Try to break into computers because it is not a game – it is a crime and it is an invasion of privacy. We know that computers often contain sensitive information.
- Steal copyrighted computer programs ("software") by copying them from the Internet because this is the same as stealing it from a store. I know that people work hard to develop new programs and they deserve to be paid for them. If software designers don't get paid for their work, they can't continue creating new software.
- Make copies of any copyrighted material, like books, magazines, or music without the permission of the author, publisher or artist. We understand that if we do "exchange music", my parents can be charged with a crime.
- Copy material found on the Internet and pretend that it's our own work. We know that it is the same as copying a book or magazine article and pretending that we wrote it. It's very easy to get caught. Teacher and thousands of other students also have access to the same material.

I agree to the above:

Child(ren) sign here: _____

I will help my child(ren) follow this agreement and will allow reasonable use of the Internet as long as these rules and other family rules are followed.

Parent(s) sign here: _____