

Family Smartphone CHARTER



The Johnson 's Version

As your parent, I am responsible to God as the ultimate steward of your phone. As long as the phone is paid for by me, and/or while you live under my roof, here are our **non-negotiables**:

- ✓ All passwords are public and accessible, including for apps
- ✓ Parents have full access to any phone at any time
- ✓ No sneaky apps designed to hide or keep secrets
- ✓ No pornography or sharing of images
- ✓ No dating apps
- ✓ No bullying
- ✓ No abusive language
- ✓ If this phone is broken or lost, [the repair or replacement will be your financial responsibility.]

Our grace policy

Systems break, technology fails, and sometimes you will find a way around the rules.

You can still tell me anything I want to know if you are being bullied online.

I care about who you talk to and what you watch. I'm making these rules because

I care about you and want to help you become responsible.

5

Essential Conversations to Have First

Who pays for the phone? **Ownership and responsibility**

When and **where** can this phone be used? **Basic ground rules**

How do we know what to trust online? **Representation does not always equal reality**

Why do we avoid harmful content? **A Christian ethic for deciding what's appropriate**

What if everything goes wrong? **Positive motivation, consequences, and support**

The Johnson's 8 Smartphone Domains

Phones are very good, cursed, & can be redeemed. God owns everything, & He owns all phones.
Parents are responsible to God as the ultimate steward of the family phones.

START HERE

1

Non-Negotiables

Parent has access to phone/apps at any time has passcode
all passwords & logins & can install software Parent
will check phone frequently & know about every app

2

Money

Parent pays for
everything (phone plan,
data, misc. costs).

3

Location

Establish policies for
home use (ie bedroom,
bathroom, mealtime, etc).

4

Time

Parents set and enforce
Screen Time limits,
phone off at night.

5

Internet

No web browsers
or search engine apps
on phone.

6

App Store

App Store with
"Family Sharing"
& "Ask to Buy"

7

Texting

Limit texting to
approved list.

8

Social Media

Allow one social media
account with a shared
family login and password.

THEN WHAT?

NO sneaky apps, hidden accounts, changing
passwords, & no secrets. Agreed family
response times to calls & texts.

Teen starts paying
for apps, services,
phone repairs, etc.

Establish policies
for outside use (with
location tracking on).

Teen regulates
Screen Time limits
with parent oversight.

Allow native browser
with whitelisted websites.

App Store with "Family
Sharing" WITHOUT
"Ask to Buy"

Allow texting, but with
daily monitoring.

Allow one social media
account with daily
time limits.

WHAT'S NEXT

NO porn, sexting, online dating, or
"hook-up" apps. NO bullying, or
inappropriate (abusive) language.

Maintain trust

Maintain trust

Maintain trust

Allow native browser with "limit adult
content" web filter and blacklisting certain
sites (on Android use "approve sites").

No Family Sharing.

Allow texting, but with
spontaneous check-ins.

Allow multiple social
media accounts with
daily time limits.

PHONE FREEDOM



Family Smartphone CHARTER



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- ✓ No sneaky apps designed to hide or keep secrets
- ✓ No pornography or sharing of images
- ✓ No dating apps
- ✓ No bullying
- ✓ No abusive language
- ✓ If this phone is broken or lost, [_____]

Our grace policy

5

Essential Conversations to Have First

Who pays for the phone? *Ownership and responsibility*

When and **where** can this phone be used? *Basic ground rules*

How do we know what to trust online? *Representation does not always equal reality*

Why do we avoid harmful content? *A Christian ethic for deciding what’s appropriate*

What if everything goes wrong? *Positive motivation, consequences, and support*



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	START HERE	THEN WHAT?	WHAT'S NEXT
1 Non-Negotiables			
2 Money			
3 Location			
4 Time			
5 Internet			
6 App Store			
7 Texting			
8 Social Media			

PHONE FREEDOM





Other Resources:



Protect Young Eyes understands the intricacies of parental controls. For detailed, step-by-step, regularly updated instructions to create safeguards on practically any device, visit their website:
protectyoungeyes.com/parental-controls-every-digital-device



For a practical guide to help younger kids understand how to think about what they see online, including sexually explicit content, we recommend the **Good Pictures, Bad Pictures** series by Kristen A. Jenson, available here:
defendyoungminds.com/books



At Axis, we often say the road to smartphone safety involves several steps, including a starter phone/training phone as a first device. But which device should you get, and how do you know the difference between them? Check out the easy comparison chart from **Screen Sanity**, available here:
screensanity.org/tool/first-phone-comparison-chart/



For weekly ideas about spending time as a family offline, check out **Analog Sunday**, an organization that encourages the practice of a digital sabbath to rewire habits and deepen relationships.



Our weekly newsletter, **the Culture Translator**, explains culture trends for parents who are raising the next generation of Christians. Sign up here:
axis.org/culture-translator

