

Sample Contracts:

A contract is designed to define how two or more parties will relate to each other with the hope of eliminating “drama” that comes from unstable agreements. Unstable agreements often have unspoken expectations, assumptions or lack of clarity. These lead to endless debates and arguments that never get resolved. The contract seeks to eliminate these by spelling out all expectations so that both parties know what they are agreeing to and what they can expect of the other. Often these contracts occur between adults and teens or very young adults (18-25).

Here are some common areas contracts spell-out:

- Rent / use of household items / food sharing agreements
- Use of car / car insurance
- Loans and repayment terms
- Job duties / description
- Household chores
- Academics/ grades / payment of tuition or tutoring
- Homework schedule / grade expectations
- Curfew / rules about coming-and-going
- Going to bed / getting up / eating / washing / other daily routines

Making a contract requires defining what each party is going to do in clear observable or measurable terms. Contracts also define clear consequences for non-compliance. The following examples may have inappropriate sections for your purposes – you may delete what you think is unneeded. These examples are assumed to be between family members – they do not represent legally binding contracts. If you require a legally binding contract, consult an attorney.

Rent is \$____ and is due on ____ day of the month by ____am/pm. No partial payments – rent must be paid in full. For every day rent is late a fine of \$____ per day is due for the first 7 days rent is late. For every day after 7 days a fine of \$____ per day is due up till the 14th day late. After 14 days, you will be served with a 2 week notice that you must leave and remove your belongings from the premises.

Cell phone:

Mom and dad will pay \$____ for a monthly cell phone plan. Any fees above this will be paid by _____. Payment is due on ____ day of the month by ____am/pm. No partial payments. For every day payment is late a fine of \$____ per day is due for the first 7 days payment is late. For every day after 7 days a fine of \$____ per day is due up till the 14th day late. After 14 days, the cell phone plan will be cancelled and all charges/fees associated with early termination of contract will be the responsibility of _____ to pay.

Food/ groceries:

_____ is responsible for their own groceries – both doing the shopping and paying for them. At no time may _____ use anyone else’s groceries. A space in the _____ and the _____ will be made available for their groceries. In the event this is violated, mom and dad will impose a fine of \$_____

School grades must remain #1 priority.

Grades must remain above _____ GPA.

If they are above _____ then _____ will receive the following incentive _____.

For every _____ points they drop below _____, then _____ will be given the following consequence _____

Trash

_____ will put trash outside on Mondays before dark – if he does not, he incurs a fine of \$_____

_____ will bring trash cans in on Tuesday by _____. If he does not, he incurs a fine of \$_____.

Dog Messes

_____ must clean up dog mess on the following days _____ by _____.

If he does not, he will incur a fine of \$_____. For each day he does not comply, an additional fine of \$_____ will occur.

Parents will be responsible for making sure _____ complies.

Fines and record keeping

All fines must be paid within _____ days. For every day late an additional fine of \$_____ will occur.

_____ will keep a written record of all infractions, the date and reason for the infraction as well as the fine. Additionally, all payments that _____ has made will be recorded in this record. _____ will be able to inspect this written record for accuracy.

_____ (teenager) will be responsible to pay for

All gas costs

All entertainment

½ of vehicle insurance payments. Payment in-full will be due on _____ of each month. No partial payments accepted. For every day late a _____ fine will occur each day up to _____ days. For every day after _____ days, a _____ fine will occur each day up to _____ days. If no payment is received after _____ days, the policy will be cancelled.

All cell phone charges over base cost of _____. Payment must be received in full on _____ day of the month. No partial payments. For every day late a _____ fine will occur each day up to _____ days. For every day after _____ days, a _____ fine will occur

each day up to _____ days. If no payment is received after _____ days, the cell phone will be disconnected and _____ will be responsible for any fees incurred due to early termination of policy.

All car payments. See below regarding car loan.

Car Loan.

Parents will co-sign a loan for _____ up to the amount of \$_____ based upon the following contingencies being met.

Parents will receive a monthly duplicate bill to monitor whether payments are being made. _____, will make all payments, however. If at any time they are unable to receive the bill or otherwise confirm that payments are being made, then the loan will be considered in default – see “default” below.

Default will be defined as follows: If _____ fails to make 2 consecutive monthly payments – for any reason – then the loan will be considered in default by parents.

If _____ defaults then:

Parents will take possession of the car – it will be _____ responsibility to make arrangements to get the car to parents within 10 days of default date. For every day late, a fine of \$_____ will incur.

If _____ does not surrender the car to parents, then parents will take necessary legal action to reclaim the car. _____ will owe any fees they incur in this process.

_____ will owe all outstanding late fees or penalties incurred with late payments, as defined by the bank who loaned the money. This amount will be payable to parents immediately. For every day late a fine of \$_____ will be charged to.

_____ will be responsible for paying the loan despite whatever happens to the vehicle – should damage to the vehicle occur or for any other reason the vehicle loses value, _____ will still be responsible for repaying the loan.

As you can tell, these examples are particular to a situation. Hopefully by reading them, you’ve gained some ideas as to what will work in yours. The key is to figure out who is responsible for what, and how the accountability mechanism will work. Each kid is different – some can be trusted, others cannot – this affects how much “detail” you put into the contract. Ask me for any clarifications that you may need.