



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY TELEPHONIC USAGE AGREEMENT

The purpose of this agreement is to document the rules and expectations regarding telephonic usage by youth in care and provide an outline for strong communication, trust, and cooperation.

Youth Responsibilities:

- Alert caregivers when suspicious or alarming phone calls or text messages are received.
- Follow school rules regarding cell phones, such as turning them off during class.
- Consider respectful use of the cell phone in different situations, for instance, it may be appropriate to turn off, silence, or put the phone away at meal times, while speaking with others, at school, etc.
- Avoid inappropriate use of electronics such as viewing, sending, or receiving pornographic photographs, cyberbullying, etc. If any inappropriate images are received, report them to an adult ally (caregiver, DCS Specialist, life skills trainer, teacher, etc.) immediately for assistance.
- Follow state and municipal laws regarding cell phone usage while driving, including texting while operating a motor vehicle.
- Utilize the cell phone to assist in positive activities that support the transition to adulthood.
- Other responsibilities include:

Caregiver Responsibilities:

- Allow the youth to have telephonic communication with their DCS Specialist and other professionals (e.g., guardian ad litem, attorney, court-appointed special advocate, and clergy) who serve the youth.
- Allow the youth to have telephonic communication with their parents, relatives, and friends except as prohibited by court order or case plan. Provide support and education to youth around healthy communication via telephone.
- Afford the youth as much privacy as possible.
- Apply reasonable restrictions, such as turning off the phone during home or facility meals or activities, and/or establishing a schedule and rules for telephonic communication.
- Allow youth at any time to use a phone to make a complaint to an appropriate authority about the conditions of their living arrangements, treatment by the provider, safety, well-being (physical or psychological) or any issue deemed problematical by the youth.
- Impose reasonable restrictions, if necessary, on phone usage for disciplinary reasons without effectively denying the youth's right to have telephonic access to friends and family. If it is obvious that a youth's cell phone is placing the child at risk, the phone can be removed as an immediate measure and the DCS Specialist will be notified immediately.
- Other responsibilities include:

This agreement is between the youth, caregiver, and the DCS Specialist. Disagreements about telephonic access should be discussed by all parties. If any of these individuals disagrees with a decision to reduce, terminate, or deny a youth access to a cell phone, a concern may be submitted to PermanencyYouthServicesUnit@azdcs.gov. Concerns will be reviewed and responded to within two business days. If the issue is still unresolved, a complaint may be filed with the DCS Ombudsman; see the Office of the Ombudsman policy (DCS 01-01) for details.

Foster Youth Signature

Date

Caregiver(s) Signature(s)

Date

DCS Specialist Signature

Date

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