



The Family Contract by McCartan Turkington Breen Solicitors

This Contract has been drafted by McCartan Turkington Breen Solicitors, a law firm with offices in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Its purpose is to help parents educate children on the basics of Contracts at an early age. It also aims to teach the importance of fulfilling responsibilities and deploying clear communication within the family setting.

Contract of Responsibilities and Rewards between:

Parent(s)

and Child



The Family Contract

This Contract of **Responsibilities and Rewards** ("the Contract") is entered into on the date _____ between the Parent(s) or guardian(s) ("the Parent(s)") and the child ("the Child") who is _____ year old. The purpose of this Contract is to teach the Child about responsibilities and to establish a mutual understanding between the Parent(s) and the Child regarding the Child's obligations and the rewards they can expect to receive in return.

1. Definitions and Interpretation

This section defines key terms used throughout the Contract to ensure clarity and understanding between the parties involved. Terms such as "Parent(s)," "Child," "Responsibilities," and "Rewards" will be clearly defined.

For the purposes of this Contract:



- 1.1 "Parent(s)" refers to the legal guardians of the Child.
- 1.2 "Child" refers to the young person in the care of the Parent(s).
- 1.3 "Responsibilities" include the tasks and obligations assigned to the Child as outlined in this Contract.
- 1.4 "Rewards" refer to the benefits and privileges offered to the Child upon fulfilling their Responsibilities.

2. General Obligations

This section outlines the general obligations of the Child. It includes responsibilities such as completing homework assignments in a timely manner, participating in household chores according to age-appropriate guidelines, and maintaining respectful behaviour towards others. The Parent(s) will provide guidance and support to help the Child fulfil these obligations.

- 2.1 The Child agrees to fulfil their Responsibilities well and to try their very best.

2.2 The Parent(s) will provide the necessary guidance and support to assist the Child in fulfilling their Responsibilities.

2.3 Both Parent(s) and Child agree to communicate openly and respectfully to resolve any issues or concerns that may arise.

3. Homework and Study Commitments

This section focuses specifically on the Child's responsibilities related to school. It details the Child's commitment to completing assigned homework, studying for tests and exams, and engaging in educational activities. The Parent(s) agree to provide necessary resources, a quiet study space and assistance when needed.



3.1 The Child agrees to complete all assigned homework and study materials in a timely manner.



3.2 The Parent(s) will provide necessary educational resources, including textbooks and stationery and other materials to support the Child's academic progress.

3.3 The Child will seek assistance from the Parent(s) or their teachers when facing difficulties with homework or studying.

4. Household Chores and Contributions

This section outlines the Child's responsibilities regarding household chores. It includes age-appropriate tasks such as making the bed, tidying their room, assisting with meal preparation and helping with cleaning duties. The Parent(s) will specify the frequency and nature of these chores, providing guidance and supervision as required.



4.1 The Child agrees to contribute to the household by performing age-appropriate chores as determined by the Parent(s).

4.2 Chores may include tasks such as making the bed, cleaning up personal belongings, assisting with meal preparation and other household duties.

4.3 The Parent(s) will provide guidance and supervision to ensure the Child performs the chores effectively and safely.



5. Personal Responsibilities

This section addresses the Child's personal responsibilities beyond school and household chores. It may include tasks such as taking care of personal belongings, organising school materials and practising good personal hygiene habits. The Parent(s) will offer guidance and encouragement to help the Child develop these responsible habits.



5.1 The Child will take responsibility for their personal belongings, ensuring they are kept organised and in good condition.

5.2 The Child agrees to practice good personal hygiene habits, including regular bathing, brushing teeth and washing hands.

5.3 The Child will demonstrate respectful behaviour towards others and adhere to any additional rules established by the Parent(s).

6. Restricted Use of Electronics and Screen Time

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This section sets limits on the Child's usage of electronic devices, such as tablets, smartphones, television and gaming consoles. It establishes guidelines for screen time, outlining the duration and specific conditions for usage. The Parent(s) will monitor and enforce these restrictions to ensure a healthy balance between screen time and other activities.



6.1 The Child acknowledges that excessive screen time can have negative effects and agrees to abide by the Parent(s)' guidelines for electronic device usage.

6.2 The Parent(s) will establish specific time limits and conditions for the Child's use of electronic devices, such as tablets, smartphones and gaming consoles.

6.2 (a) The Child will be entitled to _____ hours per day (Monday to Friday).

6.2 (b) The Child will be entitled to _____ hours per day (Saturday and Sunday).

6.3 The Child understands that adhering to these guidelines is necessary for maintaining a healthy balance between screen time and other activities.

6.4 Naughty behaviour may result in screen time being limited by The Parent(s).

7. Weekly Allowance and Rewards

This section defines the reward system for the Child's responsibilities. It outlines the criteria for earning a weekly allowance (pocket money), which may be based on the satisfactory completion of homework, chores, and personal responsibilities. The amount of the allowance and any additional rewards will be determined by the Parent(s) based on the Child's age and the nature of the responsibilities fulfilled.



7.1 The Child has the opportunity to earn a weekly allowance by fulfilling their Responsibilities as outlined in this Contract.

The amount of the allowance will be _____ per week.

7.2 Additional rewards may be provided by the Parent(s) as a recognition of exceptional effort or achievements by the Child. Additional awards include:

7.2 (a) _____

7.2 (b) _____

7.2 (c) _____

7.2 (d) _____

7.2 (e) _____

7.3 Naughty behaviour may result in rewards being limited by The Parent(s).

8. Review and Amendments

This section explains the process for reviewing and amending the Contract. It acknowledges that their responsibilities and rewards may need to be adjusted as the Child grows and



develops. The Parent(s) and the Child will discuss and negotiate any necessary changes, ensuring mutual agreement and understanding.



8.1 The Parent(s) and the Child agree to periodically review the terms and conditions of this Contract to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.

8.2 Any amendments to the Contract must be agreed upon by the Parent(s) and Child.

8.3 The Parent(s) and Child will engage in open and honest communication to discuss any proposed changes or concerns regarding the Contract.

9. Termination

This section addresses the circumstances under which the Contract may be terminated. It emphasises the importance of open communication between the Parent(s) and the Child to resolve any disputes, arguments or issues that may arise during the Contract period. The termination of the Contract should be a mutual decision reached through discussion and understanding.

9.1 This Contract may be terminated by mutual agreement between the Parent(s) and the Child.

9.2 Termination of the Contract requires a discussion between the Parent(s) and the Child to address any concerns or issues that may have arisen during its duration.

9.3 Both Parties commit to resolving any disputes or conflicts in a respectful and constructive manner before considering termination.

10. Signatures and Effective Date

The Contract will become effective upon all parties signing it, demonstrating their commitment to fulfilling their respective responsibilities.

10.1 By signing below, the Parent(s) acknowledge their understanding and acceptance of the terms and conditions outlined in this Contract.

10.2 The Child affirms their commitment to fulfilling their Responsibilities and understanding the Rewards associated with their performance.

10.3 This Contract will become effective on the date of signature by all Parties involved.

Parent(s) Signature(s): _____

Child's Signature: _____

Date: _____

