



Consent for Child to Communicate with Encouragemint

Encouragemint.org is an informational and supportive website that allows people to learn about and discuss various emotionally laden topics and certain mental health conditions. We may collect certain pieces of personal information should someone contact us directly such as with a question about the services we offer or with a technical issue.

The Child Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 requires that anyone under the age of thirteen first receive consent from a parent or guardian before they can participate in any online service that collects, uses, and/or discloses a child's personal information. When users ask a question or email us their thoughts, ideas, suggestions, etc. they may in doing so also be submitting information of a personal nature.

As such, your child needs your permission prior to their being able to engage in an ongoing conversation with Encouragemint. While we may respond on a one-time basis to answer a simple question, ongoing discussions require advance consent.

Please visit the following website pages to learn more:

Full COPPA Policy	www.encouragemint.org/coppa-policy
Full Website Terms & Conditions	www.encouragemint.org/terms-and-conditions
Privacy Policy	www.encouragemint.org/privacy-policy
Confidentiality Policy	www.encouragemint.org/confidentiality-policy
Obtain COPPA Forms	www.encouragemint.org/coppa-forms

Intended Use of Information

Children are able to access a majority of the Encouragemint website and its content without providing any personal information. However there are instances in which a child may desire to connect with Encouragemint in order to obtain a more personalized experience. For example, a child may have a technical question about using the website, a question about services in their community, or concerns about a friend or family member.

Depending on the reason for their reaching out to us, some personal information may be disclosed or even necessary in order to provide a proper response. When and where Encouragemint solicits personal information about a child, we only request and seek to collect as much information as is reasonably necessary to answer a question or otherwise address the issue raised.

In contacting Encouragemint through our basic online contact form a user will be asked for their name and email address so that we can respond to their request. Further, it is possible that a user of the website may voluntarily provide additional personal information in a message to us.

While we do not provide counseling services to children under the age of thirteen, we at times may engage with someone about emotionally themed concerns or issues. If a user is interested in such an engagement or conversation with us and is known to us to be under thirteen, they must first obtain consent. Otherwise, Encouragemint will only respond once and explain that consent would be necessary to continue a conversation.

We also use certain technologies in order to automatically collect information from users when they visit and use the website. Specifically we use technologies such as persistent identifiers, cookies, and web-based forms. These technologies allows us to collect information such as, but not limited to, how many pages a user has visited, which links they clicked on, how much time they spent on a particular page and on the website as a whole, along with the website that they visited immediately prior to Encouragemint's site (e.g. we can learn if they used a specific search engine to find us). We may also be able to identify the general area, such as the country that a user resides in, along with the type of operating system and web browser they use. This sort of information is used in aggregate for the internal operations of the website. This allows us to look at the size of our audience, learn which pages are the most and least popular, track usage patterns, and make more efficient use of our marketing efforts, such as by knowing which search engines attract the most visitors.

Child Safety

There may be instances where disclosure of personal information without advanced consent is deemed reasonable, necessary, and/or appropriate to protect the rights, property, physical safety, and/or emotional health of a child or others around the child. Such instances may include, but are not limited to actual or suspected acts of child endangerment, emotional abuse or neglect, physical abuse or neglect, sexual abuse, threats or suggestions of possible self-harm or the possibility of harm to others, where a person's life may be in danger, certain medical emergencies, or otherwise in order to protect the safety of a child or other vulnerable person.

Further, a child's personal information may also be disclosed in instances where it is reasonable, necessary, and/or appropriate to protect the safety and security of the website, to enable us to take precautions against claims of liability, to aid law enforcement agencies engaged in an investigation aimed or related to public safety, and as otherwise required by law.

Provision of Consent

I hereby attest that I am the parent or legal guardian of the child specified below and that of my own free will and volition, I hereby grant him/her permission to participate in ongoing dialogues consistent of multiple online conversations and discussions with Encouragemint personnel.

I am not herein providing consent for my child's personal information to be made public, for them to register on the website, post comments, or to participate in the Forums. I am simply providing permission for them to speak with Encouragemint staff and personnel on an individual basis.

Additionally I am only granting permission for such communication to take place electronically such as by email, instant messaging, texting, or other similar means. I am not providing consent for phone calls, personal visits, video chats, or other such similar means of communicating.

I have obtained this form from Encouragemint.org either by directly downloading it from www.encouragemint.org/coppa-forms or because my child provided my name and contact information to Encouragemint in order to provide me with this consent form that was then sent to me.

I understand that my consent is required for the collection, use, and/or disclosure of my child's personal information and that Encouragemint will not collect, use, or disclose any such personal information without such consent provided in advance. Additionally, if I do not provide consent within 30 days of this notice having been sent, Encouragemint will delete any personal and/or contact information it may have on me and/or my child from its records and not engage with my child in any ongoing discussion or conversation.

By completing the items below in their entirety, affixing my signature to the page, and submitting all pages of this form back to Encouragemint either by postal or electronic mail I am providing verifiable consent to the collection, use, and disclosure of my child's information as described herein.

I also retain my right as a parent or guardian to request at a future date to review any personal information that has been collected from my child by Encouragemint. I may at any time also request that any such personal information be corrected or deleted. Further, I may also at any time rescind this consent to communicate, thus disallowing the future collection, use, and/or disclosure of my child's personal information along with the ability to continue engaging in conversations with my child. I understand that these requests must be submitted in a similar fashion as this consent and that such forms may be downloaded at www.encouragemint.org/coppa-forms.

Lack of Consent May Impact Access

All users and members are encouraged to use discretion when providing any potentially personally identifiable information online. In the case of children, parents/guardians are encouraged to be aware of their child's online activity and routinely check their website usage.

All information directly provided is completely voluntary. The only information required in order to make initial contact with Encouragemint is a name, email address, and a message such as a question or comment. Additional personal information may be requested only as it is necessary to address a specific concern or question. The sharing of any such information is strictly voluntary. However it should be noted that by not providing consent we may not be able to fully address your child's concern or question.

Encouragemint Not Subject to COPPA

Encouragemint, Inc. is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that does not participate in unfair or deceptive acts or practices affecting commerce. To that end, Encouragemint is not legally subject to the Child Online Privacy Protection Act. Insofar as Encouragemint complies with the COPPA Rule, we do so voluntarily and with the intention of protecting the welfare, safety, and well-being of children. However there may be instances where Encouragemint takes a slightly different stance than the COPPA Rule when it comes to what is in the best interest of a child. For example, we take a hard stance when it comes to the issues described in the "Child Safety" section above. By signing below, you assert that you understand this and agree to it.

Duration of Consent

This contract shall remain in force until the 13th birthday of the child named below, unless rescinded earlier by an adult named below who is providing consent.

Changes to Grantor of Consent

While more than one parent or guardian may sign below in order to provide consent to participate as described in this notice, only one is necessary. Further only those listed below will be permitted in the future to obtain information about the child and what personal information may have been collected. If another parent or guardian requests information about the child named below they must first provide evidence of their relationship to the child.

Child's Information

Full name: _____
(Please print neatly)

Current Age: _____

Date of birth: _____
(Include month, day, and year)

Date of 13th birthday: _____
(Include year)

Child's Username:

Child's Email Address:

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian #1

Full name: _____
(Please print neatly)

I am the above named child's:
(check one)

- Parent
- Legal Guardian
- Other

My email address:

*Your email address will not be sold, shared, or used for marketing purposes in any way. It will only be kept on file for purposes of future communication with you pertaining to the child named above. Whenever contacting us about this child please use this same email address in order to confirm your identity.

If your last name is not the same as the child's last name, please explain the nature of your relationship here:

Signature: _____

Today's Date: _____

Parent/Guardian #2

Full name: _____
(Please print neatly)

I am the above named child's:
(check one)

- Parent
- Legal Guardian
- Other

My email address:

*Your email address will not be sold, shared, or used for marketing purposes in any way. It will only be kept on file for purposes of future communication with you pertaining to the child named above. Whenever contacting us about this child please use this same email address in order to confirm your identity.

If your last name is not the same as the child's last name, please explain the nature of your relationship here:

Signature:

Today's Date:

**Please send this form completed in its entirety as a scanned attachment to admin@encouragemint.org or by postal mail to Encouragemint, Inc., 57 South Main Street, Suite 273, Neptune, NJ 07753. If one parent/guardian is signing please include the first four pages. If two adults have signed the form, please include all five pages. We will send you an email confirmation when we've received the form.