

# Planning for the Detours

**Step One:** Read through the suggested list of expectations below along with the questions or statements that are posed after each. In the space provided to the right, jot down your thoughts and answers to the questions. Then determine what expectations are negotiable and which are non-negotiable. Once you are done, move on to step two.

Expectations	Your Response
<b>MAINTENANCE OF AN ORDERLY HOME:</b> What chores will your child be responsible for? When do these chores need to be done?	
<b>NOTICE OF LOCATION:</b> Do you expect to know where your children are, who they are with, what activity is occurring at all times? Some of the time?	
<b>MEDIA:</b> What programming can be viewed? What websites are allowable and which aren't? What rules are there for chat rooms, instant messaging, texting? How much time can be spent using internet, TV, tablets, cell phone, gaming devices?	
<b>PRACTICE OF THE FAITH:</b> God wants us to attend Mass, learning basic prayers and demonstrate virtues daily because these things help us live joyfully. How do you expect the same?	
<b>MONEY:</b> Where does the money come from for an activity? Are costs shared or does the person setting up the activity pay? Is there a limit on how much can be spent?	
<b>ALCOHOL AND DRUGS:</b> The use of alcohol or drugs is unhealthy and illegal. How will you relay this expectation? How do you expect your child to handle situations where alcohol or drugs are present?	
<b>CURFEW:</b> Youth should know when they are expected to be home. How will you decide this? Can this expectation be flexible depending on the activity or the age of the youth? Will a text or phone call be required if there is a change of plans?	
<b>DRIVING:</b> If a youth is a licensed driver, what are the rules for the use of the car? Who pays for insurance, gas, upkeep, etc.? If friends drive, what are your expectations: seatbelt usage? Number of youth in the car? How far away from home can they go? Should riders share the cost of the gas?	
<b>ACTIVITIES:</b> Planned activities or/and dates should always be cleared with a parent. What are your guidelines on the age of friends, distance from home an activity can be, type of activities that are permitted, activities that must be avoided (ex. bullying, sexting).	



<b>PARENTAL ROLE:</b> Do you expect that parents will supervise youth social events? How will you make sure parents are present for all gatherings?	
<b>PHYSICAL SELF-CONTROL:</b> Before a youth begins socializing with peers of the opposite sex firm decisions on physical boundaries need to be set. What are your expectations on acceptable dress, hair styles, make-up/grooming, physical expression of affection?	

**Step Two:** What are some negotiable expectations from step one that you predict are most likely to change in the next year due to changing circumstances (ex. more maturity or less maturity)? Write those expectations in the left column and then describe what action or situation would cause you to ease or strengthen the rules.

<b>Expectation</b>	<b>What action or situation would need to be demonstrated before easing the expectation?</b>	<b>What action or situation would trigger a strengthening of this expectation?</b>