

# INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S AID FOUNDATION

## PERSONAL COVENANT & LIABILITY RELEASE FORM

The covenant and guidelines below are for all who participate in our mission trip to Romania. You must remember, you go not as a tourist, but as a guest of another country. Romania is considered an LDC – Less Developed Country – and does not have the same conveniences you are used to at home. It is very important to be flexible and willing to adjust to the expectations of your team leader and your host. Above all, remember that you are an ambassador for Christ and should say or do nothing that might reflect poorly on Christians, the church, or other mission teams.

I recognize and accept the following conditions which will further the usefulness and safety of our short-term mission. If accepted as a member of this International Children's Aid Foundation (ICAF) team I agree to:

1. Release and discharge the organizations and individuals which helped make these arrangements, including ICAF, Faith Presbyterian Church and other sending churches, Misiuna Crestina Romana, their agents, employees, officers and volunteers from all claims, demands, actions, judgments, or executions that I ever had, or now have, or may have, or which my heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns may have or claim to have, against these organizations, their agents, employees, officers and volunteers, and their successors or assigns. For all personal injuries, and injuries to property, real or personal, caused by, or arising out of this mission trip. I intend to be legally bound by this statement.
2. Adopt an attitude that I am on this team to try to understand the host culture, not to convince them of my own viewpoint or style. I go knowing that there are many different ways to accomplish the same objective, and know that my way is not necessarily the best.
3. Abstain from making derogatory comments or arguments regarding people, politics, sports, religion, race, or traditions.
4. Go as a servant-disciple of Jesus Christ and will adopt that attitude when dealing with my fellow team members and the people I meet during the trip.
5. Accept and submit to the leadership role and authority of the team leader, and promise to abide by his or her decisions as they concern this mission trip.
6. I acknowledge that by engaging in this journey, I am subjecting myself to certain risks voluntarily, including and in addition to those risks that I normally face in my personal and business life, including but not limited to such things as health hazards due to poor food and water, diseases, pests, and poor sanitation; potential injury while working or traveling; and inadequate medical facilities.
7. I understand that our team's work is but a tiny speck on the bigger picture that our mission partners and ICAF are trying to accomplish. I promise not to be overly demanding, to do my best not to offend or cause embarrassment for ICAF or our local hosts, and to do my best to help them attain their long-term goals.
8. Attend all team meetings possible, both prior to departure and during the mission trip.
9. Expediently follow up on all requirements for passports, visas, financial obligations, vaccinations, travel insurance, etc. I promise to buy insurance to cover emergency medical transportation.
10. Refrain from meddling, complaining, and obscene or insensitive humor. I realize that others on my team, during the journey, and while onsite, will look at me for examples of

how a Christian acts, and I will not treat that responsibility lightly. I understand that travel, especially to remote locations, can be difficult, and I promise to adopt a flexible attitude and be supportive as plans may need to be changed. I promise to be on time for all meals, events, transportation, and activities and understand that I must travel with the rest of the team, unless other prior arrangements have been confirmed.

11. Regard the differing styles of worshiping with respect. I promise that where I see the need, I will witness my faith, but without a superior, colonial attitude.
12. If a loved one or dear friend is traveling with me, we agree to interact with all members of the team, not just one another. I promise not to initiate or seek new romantic relationships with team members during the trip.
13. Avoid any actions that might be perceived as amorous attentions toward indigenous people I meet.
14. Refrain from using tobacco or alcoholic beverages while in Romania. Abstain from any illegal drugs or prohibited activity while on the trip.
15. Remember that we are the new Christians from another part of the world and will be watched very closely. I will not take lightly this important responsibility of setting an example.
16. Refrain from giving gifts, such as money, clothes, jewelry, tape players, etc. (Although the intent of the giver is good, the result after we leave has caused problems for our host, and jealousy and bitterness amongst those locals who received no such largesse.) If I feel *compelled* to give a gift to someone I have met, I will consult first with the team leader before I promise or give the gift, and I promise to let him or her make the final decision on this matter. This covenant does not apply to the small fellowship tokens we will discuss and have approved before leaving home.
17. Respect the advice I am given concerning eating, drinking, attire and other such local traditions that will help me assimilate into the host community.
18. Understand that every member of this group is expected to share freely from their particular blessings and talents, whether that is skills such as music, art, carpentry – or basic hard work. I agree to participate in these ways as fully as possible.
19. I agree that in the event my conduct is considered so unsatisfactory that it jeopardizes the success of the trip, and that mediation during the trip has failed to correct my behavior, that my services in connection with this mission shall end and I shall return home immediately at my own expense.
20. In signing below, I represent that I am 18 years of age or older, or my parent/guardian will sign also, accepting the above conditions on my behalf.

Team member's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or legal guardian's signature if team member is under 18: \_\_\_\_\_

Team member's name: \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_