

I Just Left the Amish
NOW WHAT?



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I Just Left the Amish, Now What?

HOW TO GET A COPY OF YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE:

If your parents filed a birth certificate when you were born:

In order to obtain a certified *copy* of your birth certificate, you'll need to prove that you are who you say you are; this can be done in various ways. Most states will accept a state issued I.D. Card and/or Driver's license. If you do not have one of these, you will need to contact the state in which you were born to get a list of requirements for obtaining a copy of your birth certificate. Every state is different, but some examples are:

- Lease Agreement
- Pay Check Stub
- Medical, Dental or Chiropractor Records
- Letters from Government Agencies
- School Records
- A letter explaining who you are and why you are seeking a birth record. This letter must come from someone who knows you personally, preferably a family member.

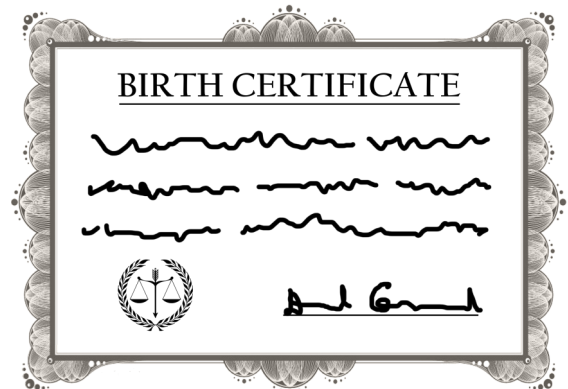
Remember, not all states accept the same documents. It is important for you to call your Vital Statistic's office, or access their website to find out the requirements.

You can also purchase a copy of your birth certificate online. To do so, please go to www.vitalchek.com. This is oftentimes a faster way; however, you will need a credit or debit card to pay their handling fee. You will also need to provide some personal information such as your parent's names and a social security number.

If your parents never filed a birth certificate when you were born:

Getting a birth certificate when you have never had one can be quite difficult. In many cases, you will have to go to court to petition the state for a birth certificate. Not only does this require extra documents, but it also requires a lot of time. In fact, this process can take anywhere from six months to a year, but is not impossible. The following records can be used to prove your identity:

- School Records
- Baptism Certificate
- Dental, chiropractor, and medical records
- Marriage License
- Lease Agreement
- Letter from a Government Agency
- Letter from a family member or your employer
- Amish Directory with the names of you and your family



Step 1

Before you do anything, you will need to submit an application in the state in which you were born; this will cost a fee that is nonrefundable. You can use the internet and/or call the Vital Statistic's office in the state you were born in to obtain an application. You will then need to print and fill out this application. Once you have filled it out, you will need to mail it to the address on the application. Upon receiving your application, they will search their records to see if your birth was recorded. If they cannot find your birth record, they will send you a letter stating that they could not find a birth record of you. **Do not get rid of this letter! You will need it as evidence and proof that you do not have a birth certificate.**

With the previously mentioned letter, you should also have received an application form, which encourages you to apply for a birth record. If, for some reason, you did not receive the application form with your letter, please contact the Vital Statistic's Office in that state, and ask for it. In most cases, you should be able to print the form off their website.

Note: Always make copies of all your letters and application forms before you send them back the Vital Statistic's office.

Step 2

Once your application form is filled out, put it in an envelope, along with all other required forms and letters, and mail it to the delayed registration office. Once they receive your application and proof of identity, a birth record may be issued.

Note: If a list of acceptable documents is not included with the application and letter, you will need to contact that office to find out what is acceptable for proof of identity.

Step 3

In some states, you will need to apply for a birth record through probate court. In such a case, you will need to complete steps 1 and 2 before scheduling a court hearing with the county in which you were born. In most cases, the judge just wants to hear from you, know why you have never had a birth certificate, and verify that the information provided is true and accurate.

Note: On rare occasions, the judge may agree to speak to the person seeking a birth record via phone or internet video chat.

After appearing before the judge, the court house will file a document that gives you permission to have a birth certificate issued. Once you have the court papers, you will need to file them with the delayed registration office in the state in which you were born. In some cases, the court may file this paperwork for you. If not, they will send you a certified copy of the court order; you will need to mail this court order and any other required documents to the delayed registration office. You will also need to call the delayed registration office to make sure of the process after your court hearing.

Reminder: Always make copies of all your application forms and documents before mailing them to the vital statistics office.

As with any birth certificate, requirements are different from state to state. It is important to contact the agency to learn of the requirements. You can either call the state in which you were born, or go online to their website.

You may also go to the following link www.vitalchek.com and select your state, then the county you were born in. This will take you to that County's website with their contact information.

HOW TO GET YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:

The steps to get a social security card are:

1. Download or get an application from the Social Security Administration; their website is <http://www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/>
2. Fill out the application
3. Take your application and proofs of identity to your local Social Security Office. If the Social Security Office accepts your proof of identification, they will issue you a card. It takes approximately two weeks to get the social security card in the mail.

Before you can get a job, driver's license or open a bank account, you will need a social security number.

The following records can be used to prove your identity:

- Birth Certificate
- State I.D. or Driver's License
- U.S. Passport
- A letter from a family member, friend or employer, stating:
 1. Why you need a social security number
 2. Your full name, age and mailing address
 3. Names of your parents and their address



Note: If you contact our office at (419) 962-1515 or Map@MapMinistry.org, we would be happy to write this letter for you or at least send you a sample of what the letter should look like.

- Utility bill, or any other type of letter that proves your address location
- Medical, dental, or chiropractor record
- School record

Note: Some states will allow an individual, who has never had a social security number, to get a State I.D. Card. You will need to contact the local License Agency to see what documents you need to bring with you in order to get your State I.D. For example, in the state of Ohio, you can take your birth certificate and a medical record with proof of residency to get a State I.D.

HOW TO GET YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE:

In order to get a driver's license, you will need to prove who you are. Most states require you to provide them with a certified birth certificate and social security card. Copies of these I.D. records will not work; you must provide original or certified documents.

Note: In many cases, you can get a State I.D. after you get your birth certificate.

Every state requires you to take two tests:

1. Knowledge test
2. Driving test

Before you take the knowledge test, you will want to study the Driver's Training Manual, which can be picked up at the local license agency in your area. This manual will discuss basic driving laws and restrictions.

Once you have studied and feel confident that you understand the booklet, you can go to your local license testing agency, and take your knowledge test. If you pass the knowledge test, you will be issued a temporary driver's license. **If you are under 21 years of age and live in the state of Ohio, you have to practice driving with someone who is 21 years or older.**

Note: It is against the law to drive by yourself until you pass the driver's test.

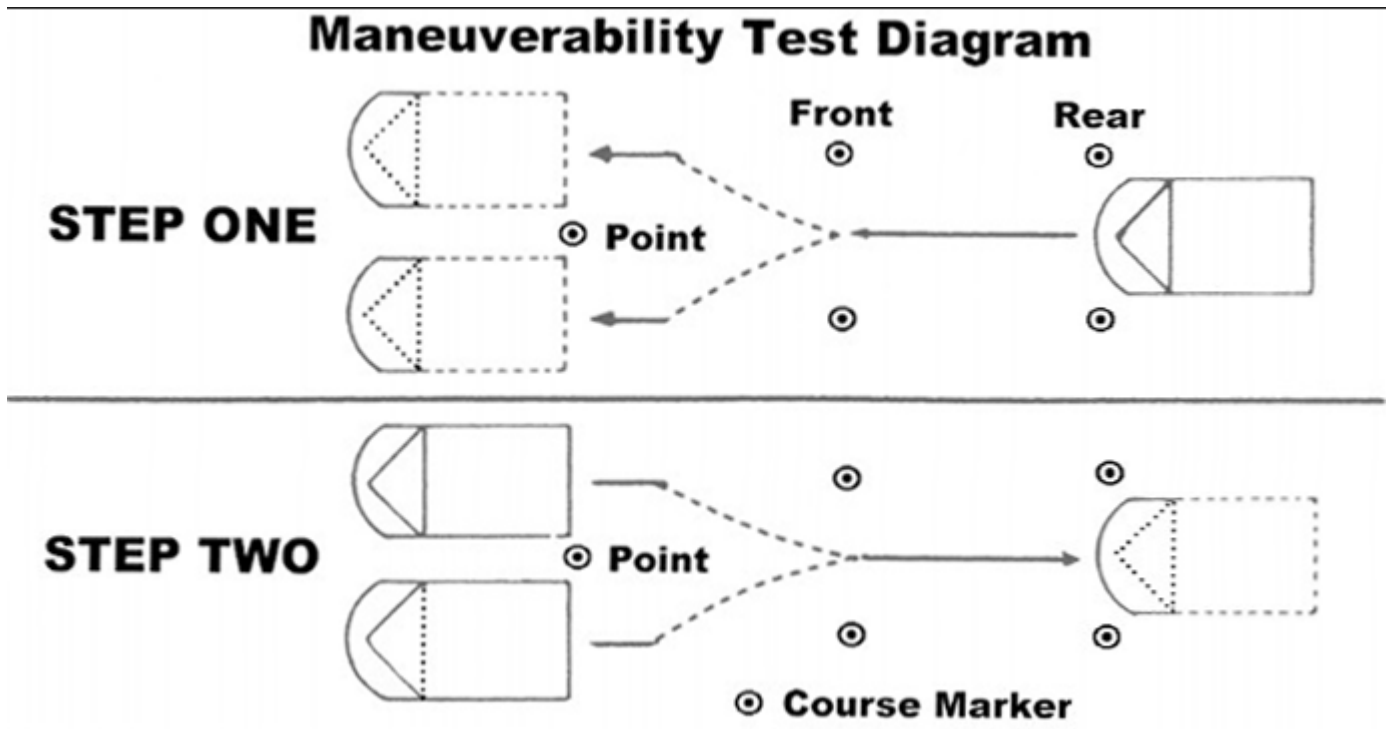
Things to take with you to the BMV/DMV:

- Certified Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card
- Proof of address (Utility Bills, Change of Address from the Postal Office)

If you do not have a social security number, meaning you have never had a social security number issued, you will need to call the licensing agency, and make sure you can apply for your driver's licenses without a number.



In order to take the driving test, it is best to have someone, who has been driving for a while, to help you understand driving laws and techniques. In some states, you will have to take a maneuverability test as well; this test is done to make sure you can parallel park. In the driver's training manual, you will find a diagram of this test. An example of this test is also listed below. This example is taken from the state of Ohio:



Once you pass the maneuverability test and driving test, you may get your driver's license. Keep in mind that driving is a privilege. Following the driving laws for the state in which you live in is important. Failure to follow the driving laws can result in fines and jail time.

HOW TO GET A JOB:

There are many ways to look for employment. Newspapers, the internet, and local temp services are great ways to see who is hiring in your area.

Newspaper:

You'll want to start by looking under the classified section. Here you will find a list of employers seeking individuals for hire. Search through these listings to see if there is a job that you would like to apply for. Usually, these classifieds have contact information or list the specific ways you need to apply for that position. You will need to follow those instructions in order to apply for the job.



Internet:

The internet is a great way to both look for and apply for jobs. You can use internet search sites like *www.Monster.com* to look for jobs in your area; most states have a website you can access to see what jobs are available; for the state of Ohio, that website is: *www.ohiomeansjobs.com*.

Temp Services:

These services have trained individuals to help you determine what jobs you are good at as well as what companies may be hiring for those positions. You can do an internet search for temp services in your area.

Job Applications and Interviews:

When applying for a job, you will need to fill out an application for the position you would like. This can be done online most of the time; however, they can also be filled out in person or at the job location.

When you are going in person to apply for a job, you will need to make sure to take some items with you, as well as some information. You will need....

- State Identification Card or a Driver's License
- Social Security Number
- Previous Job Information

A good thing to take with you when applying for a job is a resume. This is a document you will need to create using either a program on the internet or Microsoft Word. This document is a history of all your past jobs as well as a way for the employer to learn about you and your skills. Here at MAP, we can help you make a resume. You can also do a Google search on the internet for "how to create a resume." In most cases, you will just need to type in the information needed, and the website will make a resume for you.

Once you have completed your application, the employer will contact you if he/she feels you are a good fit for the position. He or she will set up an interview, which is a meeting to get to know you, so that you can discuss the job in more detail.

The interview process is very important; this is the first time you will be meeting the employer. Some basic interview skills to have are:

- Dress appropriately.
- When greeting someone, always shake his/her hand firmly.
- Make sure you are making eye contact when speaking; speak clearly.
- Use your manners.

HOW TO SET UP A BANK ACCOUNT:

Once you get a job, you will want to set up a bank account. Banks are about as plentiful as restaurants. Your best bet is to ask your friends who they bank with and why. Next, you should walk into a couple of banks and get information on starting an account; some banks charge for checking and savings accounts. You will want to ask what their fees are, and compare them with other banks in the area.

Here are some questions you might ask before signing up for an account:

1. What options do you offer for deposits? For example, if you are looking for direct deposit for your paychecks, you'll want to make sure they provide that option for the type of account you are wanting to set up.
2. What is the cost of having a bank account?
 - a. Some banks charge a small fee to have an account with them. Sometimes, this fee can be waived for reasons such as direct deposit or keeping a certain dollar amount in the account.
3. What fees do you charge for overdrafts?
4. Do you provide a debit card?
5. Can I do online banking?

It is important to keep all your banking information private. You do not want to hand your account information out to anyone except the bank employees. Don't forget to keep all your banking paperwork in a safe secure spot.



Note: It is important that you to keep track of all your spending and account deposits. You can do this with a check registry.

The picture to the left is what a check registry looks like; it is an easy way to make sure that you do not spend more money then you have in the bank. Be sure to write clearly so that you do not make any mistakes. Banks carry these booklets for free.

HOW TO SET A BUDGET:

Luke 12:42 "And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make a ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?"

A budget is a good way to make sure that you can make your payments on time and that you have enough money to live on from day to day.

You will need to consider needs like:

- Food
- Rent
- Electricity
- Water

These expenses are important to keep in mind because they help you to survive on your own. You need food, water, and a place to live; these basic expenses should be your main concern when making a budget. You can do a google search for a budget plan or use the following link to see what a budget looks like, <http://www.consumercredit.com/financial-education/budgeting.aspx>.

Be sure to pay each bill on or before its due date. You will not want to wait until the middle or end of the month to pay rent, for example; pay it at the beginning of the month.

While it is better not to borrow money from friends and loved ones, if you find the need, remember to pay the full amount back in as timely a manner as possible. Someone is doing you a favor by lending you money and helping you financially; you should be respectful in return and do all that you can to repay them as quickly as possible.

HOW TO DO YOUR TAXES:

Once you begin working and earning money, you will have to file a tax return by April 15th of every year. Your employer will give you a W-2 form at the beginning of each year. This form is used to file your taxes either through a professional filing company or by filing the correct forms through the mail. You may also have the option to complete your taxes online; if you choose to do this, it is best to use the IRS website to find secure official tax preparation help.



A NEW LIFE

Your new life outside of the Amish culture is quite different than the life you were used to in the Amish. Amish have their own rules, and they expect you to live by them. The English/American way of life also has its own rules, and you are expected to adapt and live by those now. After all, what is the point in leaving if you are going to keep your Amish rules and attitudes? Of course, you can choose to keep your Amish rules and attitudes. Keep in mind, though, that manners are a way to show appreciation and thanks to those who help you; it is also a good way to show respect for others and to show the love of Christ! You will want to learn and understand appropriate manners; they will help you get a job, have good relationships, and be kind to others.

EDUCATION:

2 Timothy 2:15 *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

Study for your GED (General Education Development Test); a GED is a form of high school graduation and is necessary for most jobs.

The G.E.D. exam in the state of Ohio is made up of Math, Science, Social Studies, and Reading/Writing. These test consists of multiple choice questions, fill in the blank, and essays. Each test approximately takes 90 minutes to complete. The Math and Reading sections allow extended timing as they cover larger areas of study.

M.A.P. Ministry offers a G.E.D. class through the Ashland County West Holmes Career Center. The classes take place at the M.A.P. office every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Classes are free thanks to a grant through the career center.

Students who participate in the class are eligible for obtaining a discount or even having their entire G.E.D. exam paid for. Students who complete 12 hours of study in the classroom are eligible for an \$80.00 voucher off the cost of their test (the entire exam costs \$120.00). There are other scholarships and grants students can qualify for to help pay for the exam as well.

During class, students will be instructed on the process of the G.E.D. as well as work together with fellow classmates on worksheets and projects. Each class is important as they all work together to help students meet their goals.

On average, students take 6-8 months to complete the G.E.D. study course. This time frame can be shortened when students study at home as well as online through our distance learning program. The more you study, the faster you will be ready to take the test!

You can get more information about how to study for and obtain a GED at your local library.



MANNERS:

Manners are more significant than just being able to follow certain rules in dealing with others. Our manners show others our thoughts and opinions, but they also reveal what is in our hearts and true character. Having and using good manners is important to ensure that we treat others the way we want to be treated. Scripture teaches us in Luke 6:31, “*And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.*”

Some common ways to show respect for others and to have manners is by using the words “please” and “thank you” often. These two simple words show appreciation and respect for those that help you accomplish your goals. Even saying “please” and “thank you” to strangers is a good way to show good character and the love of Christ. Hebrews 10:24 tells us, “*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.*”

- * Saying “please” and “thank you” are two important things to say.

You want to say “please” when making a request. For example, “Would you please pass me the pitcher of water?” Saying “thank you” is a great way to show appreciation. You should say “thank you” to anyone who is helping you. When you are at the grocery store or with anyone that is providing you with a service, it is always polite to say “thank you for your work.”

- * Say, “excuse me,” if someone is in your way instead of just shoving your way through.

When walking in crowded places, it is easy to accidentally bump into someone. Make sure to say “excuse me” and “sorry” if you do bump into someone; even if it is not your fault, it is the polite thing to do.

Showing manners to others, however, is not just about saying “please” and “thank you,” but rather, it is about speaking kindly to others. Scripture tells us in Ephesians 4:29 to “*let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*” Saying kind things and showing respect for others is a reflection on who you are. You should also not curse or take the Lord’s name in vain. You will hear curse words a lot in public, but be mindful of others around you, and remember that it is not polite to use them.

Other ways to practice good manners is to always speak kindly to one another; this includes not using words like “ugly,” “fat,” and “stupid.” These kinds of words can be harmful to others and just should not be used.

You will meet many people in your lifetime, and it is hard to remember all their names. A good way to remember names and greet someone is to shake their hands and say their name.

- * For example...

Someone walks up to you at church and reaches for your hand. Gently grab their hand with yours and shake; this is a way to introduce yourself. As you are shaking their hand, you may want to say, “Hi, my name is (insert your name). Nice to meet you, (insert their name)!”

Introductions are important in learning other's names as well as who they are. When you are in the company of friends, it is also good to introduce people who may not know each other. When introducing your friends or family, make sure to say their names clearly. For example: "Hi! This is my friend (insert their name)."

Being late and procrastinating are two things that you should always seek to avoid. Try to be at least ten to fifteen minutes early for appointments. You can create calendar reminders on your phone or computer to remind you of appointments or upcoming deadlines as well. Never wait until the last minute; it is better to be early than late!

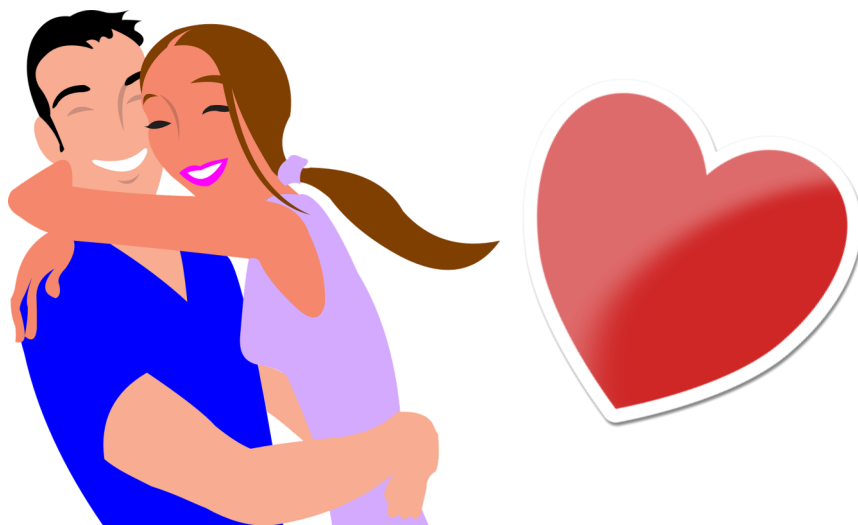
Using manners is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of respect. Others will try and tell you it is okay to curse or to be rude to others, but God does not want us to treat each other that way. You should always be aware of who is around you and what you are saying; this includes when you are on your cell phone.

DATING:

1 Corinthians 6:18 *"Flee from fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."*

Keep your relationship Godly:

1. Never let a door slam in a person's face, especially not your girlfriend's/boyfriend's.
2. Men, always open the door, and hold it for the ladies.
3. Make sure your girlfriend has a seat before you take the last one available.
4. Don't honk your horn. Walk to the door, and wait until your girlfriend is ready.
5. Walk her to the car, open the door for her, and wait until she is seated. Then, close the door for her.
6. Pass up the urge to say, "Let's go," and expect your girlfriend or boyfriend to follow. Instead, ask, "Are you ready?"
7. Respect each other. Men don't rule over women, and neither should women nag or manipulate men.



PERSONAL HYGIENE:

It is very important to take care of your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says, “*What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.*”

Here are some things to keep in mind:

1. Take a shower/bath every day; wash your hair on a regular basis.
2. Wear deodorant. You may not smell yourself but others will smell you.
3. Put on a clean outfit every day; wash your clothes regularly.
4. Brush your teeth at least twice a day (morning, evening, and before you go out or to the dentist). Use dental floss daily.
5. Boys should shave every day, especially before going on a date, or before attending a job interview.
6. Girls need to shave their armpits and legs, especially when wearing a dress, several times a week.

LIVING WITH OTHERS:

Proverbs 18:24: “*A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*”

1. Show appreciation by helping around the house; help with the dishes/cooking/dusting/sweeping/...etc.
2. Do your own laundry.
3. Clean up after yourself.
4. If you take lunch to work, pack it yourself.
5. Ask before you take or borrow things from someone else.
6. Remove your shoes, especially work boots, before going into a house.
7. Keep music/TV noise down because not everyone enjoys the same thing that you do.
8. Be well-mannered, and don’t drink all of the pop or eat all of the ice cream, etc.
9. Make sure that you ask before bringing others into a home that’s not yours. Remember, they are strangers to the family with whom you are staying.
10. You should ask if you may answer or use the phone before answering or using it.
11. When answering the phone (especially if it is not yours) say, “Hello, this is (insert your name)” Also, when making a call, let the other person know who is calling. Example: “Hi, this is (insert your name)”; it is not polite to ask the other person to guess who is calling.
12. Once you have a job, help pay for rent and food. Electricity and grocery expenses increased when you moved into the home.



WHEN TO USE YOUR CELL PHONE:

Most individuals have a cell phone. Using a cell phone is a fast and easy way to get information and talk with the people you care about. Cell phones are great, however, one needs to learn when it is ok to use them and when they should be turned off.

When you are out in public, for example, at the bank, it is not polite to use your cell phone while waiting in line or waiting to speak with a bank official. If you need to make a call, step outside of the bank. This goes for all public places such as restaurants, grocery stores, shopping malls, and post offices.

If you are talking on the phone in public, use an inside voice. Sometimes, when we are speaking with friends or family, we tend to get too loud; remember that others around you do not want to hear your conversation. Keeping your speaking voice low is a great way to ensure that you are not being rude to others.

If you decided to attend school, you will want to make sure your cell phone does not get in the way of your studies. During class, you will want to shut your phone off, or turn it on silent. This will allow yourself and others around you to pay attention and learn.

If you have a job, your employer should have a cell phone policy. Most will tell you your cell phone should not be used for personal use during work times; you should only use them when you are on a break or at lunch. Please check the employee handbook for cell phone policies.

Things to remember the following when making a phone call:

- Begin each conversation by telling the person you are calling who you are.
- If you instigate the call, it is also your responsibility to end the call.
- Don't breath into the phone.
- If the person you are calling does not pick up, leave a message.
- Don't go to bed without responding to your voice and text messages.



EMERGENCY HELP:

If you find yourself in need of immediate shelter or food, you can look into different city-wide organizations. Most cities offer help through the YMCA or Red Cross. It is important to know where these offices are and how to contact them. You can use the internet on your phone or a phone book to look for their contact information.

In closing, it's not my intent to sway your mind or brainwash you; I want you to have a strong mind and think for yourself! Many people will just despise me for writing this, but "*Ich gep nix drum*" :) As long as I can help at least a few!

Do you want to leave the Amish? Or are thinking about it? You won't be alone, and you won't go to hell for NOT being Amish! Remember what the Bible says in John 3:16: "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*" (it does not say if you are Amish and believe, no —> WHOSOEVER!)

