

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
FAMILY DIVISION OF THE 29TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
PARENTING TIME GUIDELINES**

At times, parents are unable to agree on a reasonable parenting time schedule. When this happens, the parties may seek the assistance of the Court. The Friend of the Court is then usually called upon to either assist the parties in resolving their dispute or investigate the matter and provide a recommendation to the Court.

There is not one parenting time schedule that is utilized in every case. Cooperation and mutual flexibility are usually the hallmarks for a positive, effective and successful parenting time arrangement. Ideally, the schedule should be individually tailored for each case, taking into consideration a number of factors, which are not limited to the following:

1. The work schedules and other characteristics of the parents;
2. The distance and traveling time between the parents' homes;
3. The relationships between the children and the parents;
4. Ages and special needs of the children.

Occasionally, an Order may not be specific, and may simply include a provision for "reasonable and liberal" parenting time. If that is the case, and the parties cannot agree upon a schedule, then the following guidelines are suggested.

Note: If there is more than one child, parenting time for all children would be pursuant to the schedule for the oldest child. There is an exception to this rule when a younger child is an infant who is breastfeeding.

Birth to 2nd Birthday:

This schedule must be modified to serve the child's needs in cases involving a nursing child less than 6 months of age, or a child less than 1 year of age that receives substantial nutrition through nursing.

1. Alternate weekends, Saturday at 9 am until Sunday at 6 pm. If a child is breastfeeding, weekend parenting time for that child shall be for three hours on Saturdays or Sundays every weekend; if the parties cannot agree on the time for parenting time, it shall be on Sundays from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
2. Two weekday evenings per week for two hours, with a return time no later than 8 pm
3. Alternate holidays (see holiday schedule for specifics)

2nd Birthday to Beginning of Kindergarten:

1. Alternate weekends, Friday at 6 pm until Sunday at 6 pm
2. One weekday evening per week for up to three hours, return time no later than 8 pm

3. Alternate holidays (see holiday schedule for specifics)
4. Each parent would be entitled to up to three nonconsecutive, uninterrupted one-week periods during the summer, from Friday at 6 pm to Friday at 6 pm., with each parent to incorporate their regularly scheduled weekends into their one-week periods.

The noncustodial parent must provide written notice of his/her selected weeks to the other parent and the Friend of the Court by May 1st each year. The custodial parent must provide written notice of his/her selected weeks to the other parent and the Friend of the Court by May 15th each year. Failure to provide the required notice will result in the forfeiture of the right to select the one-week periods for that year.

Beginning of Kindergarten to 15th Birthday:

1. Alternate weekends, Friday at 6 pm until Sunday at 6 pm
2. One weekday evening per week for three hours
3. Alternate holidays (see holiday schedule for specifics)
4. The parents shall alternate weeks during the summer, from Friday at 6 pm to Friday at 6 pm, beginning the first weekend after school lets out, with the parent who would have regularly scheduled parenting time on that weekend. Summer parenting time continues until 6 pm on the Friday before school resumes.
5. Each parent has the option to select one uninterrupted fourteen-day period during the summer, to begin at 6 pm on a Friday at the start of one of their own regularly scheduled weeks and end at 6 pm on the Friday that falls fourteen days later, at which time the other parent's regular week would then begin.

The noncustodial parent must provide written notice of his/her selected two-week period to the other parent and the Friend of the Court by May 1st each year. The custodial parent must provide written notice of his/her selected two-week period to the other parent and the Friend of the Court by May 15th each year. Failure to provide the required notice will result in forfeiture of the right to select the two-week period for that year.

From 15th Birthday On:

Teens can benefit from learning to manage their own time as they engage in activities that prepare them for adulthood, such as sports, extracurricular activities, jobs, dates, etc. In some cases, it may be appropriate for teens to have input with respect to the parenting time schedule as they begin to outgrow the childhood parenting time schedules.

If the parties cannot agree to adjust the parenting time schedule to accommodate their teenager's activities, the Friend of the Court may recommend that regular parenting time be arranged between the teen and the non-custodial parent. The non-custodial parent would then be required to provide notice of the planned time to the custodial parent at least 48 hours in advance. Parenting time may not be scheduled during school hours.

Obviously, the success of this type of arrangement is dependent upon the maturity of the child and the dynamics of the parents' relationships with the child and with each other.

Holiday Parenting Time:

HOLIDAY	EVEN YEARS	ODD YEARS
Easter Weekend -Friday at 6 pm until Sunday at 6 pm	FATHER	MOTHER
Memorial Day Weekend -Friday at 6 pm until Monday at 6 pm	MOTHER	FATHER
Independence Day -July 4 th at 9 am until July 5 th at 6 pm	FATHER	MOTHER
Labor Day Weekend -Friday at 6 pm until Monday at 6 pm	MOTHER	FATHER
Thanksgiving -Wednesday at 6 pm to Sunday at 6 pm. For children under two, Thanksgiving parenting time is Thanksgiving Day only, from 10 am to 7 pm	FATHER	MOTHER
Halloween -4pm to 9 pm, or any portion of that period that the parent is available. If Halloween falls on a Friday or Saturday, it shall be exercised as an overnight, from 4 pm until 10 am the following morning	MOTHER	FATHER
Mother's Day - 10 am to 7 pm	MOTHER	MOTHER
Father's Day -10 am to 7 pm	FATHER	FATHER
Christmas Eve -9 am to 9 pm until the oldest child begins kindergarten	FATHER	MOTHER
Christmas Day -9 pm Christmas Eve until 9 pm Christmas day, until the oldest child begins kindergarten	MOTHER	FATHER
Christmas 1st part of break-once oldest child begins kindergarten , this shall be exercised from 6 pm the day school recesses and end at noon on Christmas Day	MOTHER	FATHER
Christmas 2nd part of break-once oldest child begins kindergarten , this shall be exercised from noon on Christmas Day until 6 pm the day before school resumes	FATHER	MOTHER
Child(ren's) Birthday -Parenting time with all children present on each child's birthday. If the birthday falls on weekday (Monday-Friday), parenting time shall be from 4 pm to 8 pm. If the birthday falls on a weekend (Saturday or Sunday), parenting time shall be from 12 pm to 8 pm.	MOTHER	FATHER
Spring Break -effective once the oldest child begins kindergarten, begins at 6 pm the day school recesses and ends at 6 pm the day before school resumes.	FATHER	MOTHER

Holiday parenting time takes precedence over all other parenting time. Parenting time for children's birthdays takes precedence over regular parenting time. When holiday or birthday parenting time interrupts regular parenting time, regular parenting time should resume on the previous rotation as if the interruption never occurred.

Transportation:

The parents shall equally share the transportation responsibility for purposes of parenting time. Unless otherwise agreed, the Father shall provide transportation to his home and the Mother shall provide transportation to her home, with the exception that the non-custodial parent provides all transportation for parenting time periods of five hours or less.

The parenting time schedule shall be exercised in a prompt manner. A thirty-minute delay is allowed *only* in the event of an emergency or other unforeseen circumstance.

If necessary, due to work schedule or other unavoidable conflicts, the parents may select a properly licensed adult who is known to the child(ren) to provide transportation for parenting time. Advance notice is required, and care should be used in the selection of such a person to minimize potential problems with the other parent.

Other:

Parents are encouraged to be cooperative in making arrangements to modify the parenting time schedule to allow the children to attend special events and activities with the other parent and/or extended families.

If the parents' residences are more than 100 miles apart, the above provisions may be modified. Issues to consider include, but are not limited to, the child's school schedule and other activities, the travel time for the child in relation to the length of the parenting time period, and the transportation costs for the parties.