

**STANDARD PARENTING TIME GUIDELINES, ORC§3109.051(F)(2).**

Effective 7/1/13

Liberal time between parents and their children is encouraged. It is hoped that the parties can voluntarily arrive at mutually agreeable schedules. In the event they cannot agree, and unless otherwise ordered, parenting time shall not be less than the following:

**1. WEEKDAYS AND WEEKENDS****a. CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO TWO MONTHS:**

Two weekly times for two hours on the days and times the parties can agree. If the parties cannot agree, then the days shall be every Saturday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and every Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**b. CHILDREN TWO MONTHS TO 12 MONTHS:**

Two weekly times for 2-6 hours on the days and times the parties can agree. If the parties cannot agree, then the days shall be every Tuesday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and every Saturday from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**c. CHILDREN 12 MONTHS TO 24 MONTHS:**

Every Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and every weekend from Friday at 6:00 p.m. to Saturday at 6:00 p.m.

**d. CHILDREN 24 MONTHS AND OLDER:**

Every Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and alternating weekends from Friday at 6:00 p.m. to Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

**2. HOLIDAYS**

<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Even Years</b>	<b>Odd Years</b>	<b>Days/Times</b>
1. Martin Luther King Day	Father	Mother	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
2. President's Day	Mother	Father	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
3. Easter Sunday	Father	Mother	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
4. Memorial Day	Mother	Father	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
5. Fourth of July	Father	Mother	9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
6. Labor Day	Mother	Father	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
7. Thanksgiving	Mother	Father	6:00 p.m. Wed. to Fri. at 8:00 p.m.
	Father	Mother	8:00 p.m. Fri. to Sun. at 8:00 p.m.
8. Christmas Eve	Mother	Father	9:00 a.m. 12/24 to 10:00 a.m. 12/25
9. Christmas Day	Father	Mother	10:00 a.m. 12/25 to 8:00 p.m. 12/26
10. New Year's Eve	Mother	Father	6:00 p.m. 12/31 to 1:00 p.m. 1/1
11. New Year's Day	Father	Mother	1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**3. DAYS OF SPECIAL MEANING**

- a. Mother's Day shall be spent with the mother from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- b. Father's Day shall be spent with the father from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- c. The children's birthdays shall be spent with the mother in even-numbered calendar years, and with the father in odd-numbered years. Parenting time shall be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. if the birthday is on a school day, and from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. if the birthday is not on a school day. Siblings shall be included in the birthday parenting time.
- d. Each parent's birthday shall be spent with that parent from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. if the birthday is on a school day, and from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. if the birthday is not on a school day.

#### **4. WINTER BREAK**

Winter break shall be divided equally between the parties. In odd-numbered years, the mother shall have the children the first half, and the father shall have the children the second half of winter break. In even-numbered years, the mother shall have the children the second half, and the father the first half of winter break. Winter break begins at 6:00 p.m. on the last day of school before the break and ends at 6:00 p.m. the day before school recommences. Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day shall not be included in calculating the equal number of days to which each parent is entitled.

#### **5. SPRING BREAK**

Spring break shall be divided equally between the parties. The parent having possession on Easter Sunday shall have possession during the half of spring break that includes Easter Sunday, or the second half of the spring break if spring break does not include Easter Sunday; the other parent shall have possession during the other half of the spring break. Spring Break begins at 6:00 p.m. on the last day of school before the break, and ends at 6:00 p.m. on the day before school recommences. Easter Sunday shall not be included in calculating the equal number of days to which each parent is entitled.

#### **6. SUMMER VACATION**

##### **a. FOR CHILDREN AGE 12 MONTHS TO 24 MONTHS:**

Two weeks parenting time for each parent, to be exercised in periods of no longer than one week at a time.

##### **b. FOR CHILDREN 24 MONTHS AND OLDER:**

Three weeks parenting time for each parent, to be exercised in periods of no longer than two consecutive weeks at a time.

The non-possessory parent shall provide written notice to the other parent by **May 1** each year of the dates he or she intends to exercise summer vacation parenting time. The possessory parent shall provide written notice to the other parent by **May 15** each year of the dates he or she intends to exercise summer vacation parenting time. If there is a conflict between the parties as to the dates of summer vacation parenting time, the father's dates shall be given priority in odd numbered years, and the mother's dates shall be given priority in even numbered years. Vacation possession must be exercised in minimum periods of seven (7) days. Unless otherwise agreed, summer vacation parenting time shall begin on Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

#### **7. TELEPHONE CONTACT**

Each parent may have telephone contact with the children once per day when the children are with the other parent. Each parent has the right to reasonable calls when the child is on vacation with the other parent. Telephone calls should be made during the normal hours the child is awake, and if the child is unavailable, each parent shall take the responsibility of seeing that the child timely returns the call. The child should be permitted to call the other parent if the child so requests. Telephone calls shall be reasonable in duration and not disruptive to the parenting time of the parent in possession. The same rules shall apply with respect to texting and other forms of electronic communication.

## GENERAL RULES FOR PARENTING TIME

### 1. **Precedence.**

- a. Holiday parenting time and days of special meaning shall take precedence over all other parenting time.
- b. Vacation parenting time shall take precedence over regular weekend/midweek parenting time.
- c. If a holiday or day of special meaning falls on a day immediately preceding or following that parent's regular parenting time, then the parenting time will be continuous.
- d. A holiday or day of special meaning that falls on a weekend shall be spent with the parent who is designated to have the children for that holiday, and the other parent shall have the children for the rest of the weekend.
- e. The alternating weekend schedule shall not change, even if interrupted or superseded by holiday, birthday, vacation, make-up, or other parenting time.
- f. Midweek or weekend parenting time that is missed due to the other parent's exercise of holiday, vacation or other special parenting time does not have to be made up.

2. **Older Siblings:** If a parent is exercising parenting time with the older sibling[s] of an infant child, the parenting time (except summer vacation, but including holidays, school breaks, and other special parenting time) set forth above for children ages 24 months and older shall govern infant visitation once the infant is twelve months old.

3. **Vacation Destination.** Each parent must provide the other parent with destination, times of arrival and departure, method of travel, and a telephone number where the parent may be reached, if the vacation will be outside the traveling parent's community.

4. **Summer School.** Summer school necessary for the child to pass to the next grade must be attended. Summer vacation parenting time may be scheduled during a mandatory summer school period, but the parent exercising parenting time must ensure that the child attends all classes.

5. **School Calendar.** If the children are not registered for school, for example if they are home schooled, or not of school age, summer, winter, and spring vacations will be determined based on the public school district in which the primary residential parent resides.

6. **Promptness.** Neither parent shall be more than thirty (30) minutes late picking up the children. If the non-residential parent is more than thirty (30) minutes late, parenting time is forfeited and shall not be made up. The parent with possession of the children shall make sure that the children are ready to be picked up at the scheduled time.

7. **Notice of Intent to Relocate.** A residential parent who intends to move from the residence specified in any order granting parenting time, shared parenting, custody or visitation must immediately file with the undersigned judge a Notice of Intent to Relocate. At the same time, copies of said Notice shall be served upon the other parent and the Geauga County Child Support Enforcement Division. Said Notice must be filed as soon as possible after the parent learns of the move. The Notice shall specify the time and place of relocation. The residential parent may seek, by motion, an order pursuant to R.C. 3109.054(G) that the other parent not be provided a copy of such Notice.

In addition, each parent is prohibited from permanently removing a child from Geauga County or its contiguous counties (Cuyahoga, Summit, Lake, Ashtabula, Trumbull and Portage) without first obtaining the written consent of the other parent or a court order granting permission to remove the child.

If a parent files a Notice of Intent to Relocate, either parent may file a motion to modify the possession schedule.

8. **Cancellation.** A parent shall give twenty-four (24) hour advance notice if the parent intends to cancel parenting time if possible. If not possible, then notification shall be as soon as possible under the circumstances. This time is forfeited and shall not be made up.

9. **Transportation.** The parent who is beginning his or her possessory period shall pick up the children. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or agreed by the parties, drop-off and pick-up shall be at the parents' respective homes.

If either parent is unavailable for the pick-up or delivery of the children, he or she must use an adult well known to the children and/or the other parent for this purpose. Any person driving the children must comply with all child restraint laws, including those pertaining to car seats. No person transporting the children may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Only licensed drivers may transport the children.

10. **Illness.** If a child is ill, the possessory parent should give twenty-four (24) hour notice, if possible, to the other parent. The non-possessory parent shall decide whether the parenting time should go forward. If any parenting time, including weekend, holiday, birthday or vacation, is missed due to illness, then any missed parenting time shall commence the first weekend of the other parent's time, and shall continue during the other parent's weekends until made up in full, including partial weekends if necessary.

11. If a parent exercises parenting time when a child is ill, the possessory parent shall provide the other parent with any prescription medication and instructions for care of the child.

12. **Address and Telephone Numbers.** Each parent must, unless the court orders otherwise, keep the other parent informed of his or her current address and telephone number, and an alternate telephone number in the event of an emergency.

13. **Children's Activities.** Scheduled parenting time shall not be delayed or denied because a child has other scheduled activities (with friends, work, lessons, sports, etc.) The parent shall discuss such activities in advance, including time, dates and transportation needs, so that the child is not unreasonably deprived of activities. The parent who has the child during the time of the scheduled activity is responsible for transportation, attendance, and other arrangements. Neither parent shall schedule activities that interfere with the other parent's time without that parent's consent. The parent arranging the child's participation in the activity should provide all relevant information, including schedules, contact information, etc., to the other parent as soon as possible. Both parents are encouraged to attend all of the child's activities.

14. **School work.** Parents shall provide time for children to study and complete homework assignments, even if the completion of work interferes with the parent's plans for the children. Each parent is responsible for providing the other parent all school assignments and books that are necessary for the children to complete their assignments when in the possession of the other parent.

15. **Clothing.** Any clothing provided by a parent for the other parent's possessory time must be returned upon exchange of possession of the children. If the clothing must be laundered, it shall be laundered and returned to the other parent at the following visit.