

LOCAL PARENTING TIME GUIDELINES MARQUETTE COUNTY

Please note that these are guidelines only. This schedule is not a court order unless adopted as part of a court order. These guidelines do not apply strictly to every family; they may be modified to fit the circumstances and the distance separating the parents.

A. Alternating Weekend Parenting Time

Parenting time shall occur on alternating weekends from 6:00 p.m. Friday evening until 6:00 p.m. Sunday evening.

B. Weekday Parenting Time

Parenting time shall occur one evening per week from after school (or 3:00 p.m. on non-school days) to 8:00 p.m. on a day of the week to be determined by the parties. If the parties cannot agree on a day, the parenting time shall occur on Wednesday evening.

C. Holiday Parenting Time

The father shall have parenting time in years ending in an odd number (2009, 2011 etc) and the mother shall have parenting time in years ending in an even number (2010, 2012) for the following holidays:

1. **Memorial Day weekend** beginning 6:00 p.m. the Friday of the weekend and ending 6:00 p.m. Memorial Day.
2. **Labor Day weekend** beginning 6:00 p.m. the Friday of the weekend and ending 6:00 p.m. Labor Day.

The father shall have parenting time in years ending in an even number and the mother shall have parenting time in years ending in an odd number for the following holidays:

1. **Independence Day (July 4th)** beginning 6:00 p.m. on July 3rd and ending 6:00 p.m. on July 5th.
2. **Thanksgiving weekend** beginning 6:00 p.m. the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving and ending 6:00 p.m. the Sunday evening following Thanksgiving.

D. Spring, Summer and Winter (Christmas Break) Parenting Time Schedule.

1. **Spring Break:** The father shall have parenting time in years ending in an even number (2012, 2014, etc) and the mother shall have parenting time in years ending in an odd number (2011, 2013 etc.) for the Spring break. Spring break parenting time shall occur during the spring break of the school district in which the child(ren) resides from 6:00 p.m. the day school is scheduled to recess until 6:00 p.m. the day before school is scheduled to resume.

2. **Winter (Christmas Break):** In years ending in an odd number, (2011, 2013, etc.) the father shall have parenting time from 6:00 p.m. on the date that the school district in which the children reside recesses for winter break (Christmas break) until 2:00 p.m. December 25 and the mother shall have Parenting time from 2:00 p.m. December 25 until 6:00 p.m. December 27 Thereafter the normal parenting time schedule shall resume.
In years ending in an even number (2012, 2014 etc), the mother shall have parenting time from 6:00 p.m. on the date that the school district in which the children reside recesses for winter break (Christmas break) until 2:00 p.m. December 25 and the father shall have parenting time from 2:00 p.m. December 25 until 6:00 p.m. December 27. Thereafter, the normal parenting time schedule shall resume.
3. **Summer Break:** Summer parenting time shall commence the first Friday after Independence Day (July 4th) at 6:00 p.m. and continuing for four weeks until the fifth Sunday at 6:00 p.m. During this period, the other parent shall exercise weekend parenting time one weekend beginning on the 3rd Friday (the Friday on which the child goes to the other parent is the 1st Friday) from 6:00 pm Friday to 6:00 pm Sunday.

E. Mother's Day and Father's Day

The children shall be with the mother the entire weekend of Mother's Day and with the father the entire weekend of Father's Day from 6:00 p.m. Friday until 6:00 p.m. Sunday.

F. Phone Contact

The children shall have the right to contact with the other parent by telephone or Internet at reasonable times and frequency.

If the children will be vacationing or residing at a location different from the usual location, the other parent should be informed of a telephone number, address and the means to contact the other parent in case of an emergency.

G. Holiday Parenting Time To Take Precedence Over Other Scheduled Time

Whenever a more specific holiday parenting time is scheduled, it shall take precedence over any regularly scheduled parenting time. When the holiday schedule concludes, the alternating weekend schedule shall be resumed according to the pre-existing plan as if it had not been interrupted.

H. Transportation

Unless otherwise agreed or ordered by the court, the parents will share transportation. The parent who is exercising parenting time will pick up the child at the start of that time, and the other parent will pick up the child at the end of that time. In the alternative, the parents may share transportation by meeting at an approximate and convenient mid point to exchange the child. Transportation can be provided by the parent or by a member of the parent's family with whom the

child is secure and familiar. All transportation shall be provided by an individual with a valid driver's license in a licensed, insured and registered vehicle. All legally required restraints must be present and used.

I. Contamination of Parenting Time

Parents shall not use the parenting time exchange as an opportunity to exchange bills, discuss support or other issues, or to behave disrespectfully toward the other parent. If the Court finds at a later hearing that a parent is contaminating exchange of the children to the detriment of the children, that parent's time may be suspended until further order, and other sanctions may be imposed.

J. Children's Medical Needs

The parents are to exchange copies of insurance cards and other necessary health information. Each parent shall provide all medication and doctor's written instructions to the parent exercising parenting time. The parent exercising parenting time shall administer all medications according to the doctor's written instructions. If the children require medical attention during parenting time, the parent shall obtain treatment for the children and shall notify the other parent as soon as possible.

K. Preparing Children for Parenting Time

Parents should offer encouragement to prepare the children emotionally for the parenting time. Neither parent should use the parenting time as an occasion to cause concern or anxiety to the children. Parents should use all reasonable means to ensure that the parenting time occurs provided that no excessive force is used. In general, the following are not appropriate reasons for denying parenting time:

- ❖ The children have a minor illness.
- ❖ The children had to go somewhere else.
- ❖ The children were not home.
- ❖ A parent is behind in support.
- ❖ A parent did not want the children to go.
- ❖ The children refused to go.
- ❖ The other party failed to meet preconditions unilaterally established by the party allegedly denying parenting time.

L. Extracurricular Activities

The parties should cooperate with each other when enrolling the children in extracurricular activities to ensure that the activities do not interfere with the ability of the children to exercise parenting time. Neither parent should enroll the children in excessive activities which serve to interfere with the other's ability to spend time with the children.

Parents should keep one another apprised of all of the children's activities so the other parent has the opportunity to attend or participate in the activity, even if the activity occurs during the parent's off schedule.

M. Safety Issues

Each party is responsible to ensure the safety and well being of the children. All written doctor's instructions including those concerning exposure to plants, animals, smoke and other elements shall be communicated and followed.

N. Time for Parenting Time Exchange

TIMES: 6:00 pm unless a different time is set out in another part of this schedule, or the parents agree to a different time.

Neither parent should do anything to inconvenience the other in the exchange of the children. Arriving late by no more than 30 minutes may be acceptable in exceptional circumstances, but should never become the norm. A parent should be late only when a legitimate, unavoidable, reason exists for being late. A parent who anticipates being late should contact the other parent as soon as possible.

Additionally, a parent should not be early for parenting time as this may cause undue disruption for the children and the other parent.

O. Makeup Parenting Time/Missed Parenting Time

Makeup parenting time occurs when children have been denied access to a parent during scheduled parenting time. The makeup parenting time will be applied according to the policy of the Friend of Court and should be of the same type and duration as the original parenting time. If a parent fails to exercise parenting time, the schedule would not be adjusted and future parenting time shall occur as if no time has been missed.

P. Changes in Order

The parties may modify any of the provisions of this schedule by mutual agreement. Occasional or one-time changes agreed to by the parties need not be in writing. Longer-term changes shall be in writing, signed and dated by both parties, and attached to each party's copy of this order.

Q. Further Court Orders

Either party or the Friend of Court may petition the Court for changes in this order due to legally sufficient changed circumstances or other proper cause.

R. Enforcement of Order/Disputes

Either party or the Friend of Court may petition the Court for enforcement of this order. Before petitioning the Court, parties are encouraged to resolve parenting time disputes by jointly writing the Friend of Court at 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette, MI 49855, or through mediation with the Marquette Alger Resolution Service at (MARS) at 906-226-8600.