

## MID-DISTANCE PARENTING TIME

### A. Alternating Weekend Parenting Time

OPTION Because of the distance and time, alternating weekend parenting time is not ordered. Three or four day weekends on the school calendar may be ordered, depending on time, distance, and other circumstances, *use some draft of the following:*

If the child(ren)'s school district has one or more three or four-day weekends during the school year, the custodial parent shall provide the non-custodial parent with the school calendar or schedule within one week of the start of the school year. The non-custodial parent shall have an extended parenting time weekend on at least two extended weekends during the school year when the child(ren) don't have school on a Friday or a Monday. Such extended weekend parenting time shall be for three over-nights on such weekends.

### B. Weekday Parenting Time

Weekday parenting time is not ordered. In lieu of weekday parenting time, the child shall have at least one weekly telephone contact with the non-custodial parent, and such additional telephone, e-mail, and instant message contact via the Internet the parties are able to agree on. If no agreement is reached:

Telephone – Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. call initiated by non-custodial parent  
E-mail (I.M. or other) – weekly permitted subject to reasonable control over computer access exercised by custodial parent.

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

3. Independence Day (July 4<sup>th</sup>) beginning 6:00 p.m. on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and ending 9:00 a.m. on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

4. Thanksgiving weekend beginning 6:00 p.m. the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving and ending 6:00 p.m. the Sunday evening following Thanksgiving.

In addition to these holidays, the parents may choose to alternate up to 4 other holidays to the extent they are not already alternated by other parts of this schedule.

#### **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 (2010, 2012, etc) and the mother shall have parenting time in years ending in an odd number (2009, 2011 etc.) for the Spring break. Spring break parenting time shall occur during the spring break of the school district in which the child 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, (2009, 2011, etc.) the father shall have parenting time from 6:00 p.m. on the date that the school recesses for the winter holiday (Christmas) break through December 25. December 26 shall be a travel day. The mother shall have Parenting time from December 26 until 6:00 p.m. the day before school resumes in January. Thereafter the normal parenting time schedule shall resume.

In years ending in an even number (2010, 2012 etc), the mother shall have parenting time from 6:00 p.m. on the date that the school recesses for the winter holiday (Christmas) break through December 25. December 26 shall be a travel day. The father shall have parenting time from December 26 until 6:00 p.m. the day before school resumes in January.

3. Summer Break: The primary custodial parent shall provide to the non-custodial parent by March 31 of each year, a school calendar, or a portion of a school calendar, identifying the specific day the school year ends in May or June, and the specific start of school the following August or September.

The summer shall be split so that the children are with the primary custodial parent the first three weeks after school is ended in May or June, with the children being transported to the non-custodial parent's custody on the third weekend after the last day of school. The children shall remain with the non-custodial parent for a period of 6 weeks thereafter, returning to the custodial parent on Sunday of the sixth weekend. During that 6-week period, the custodial parent shall be entitled to at least one weekend visit with the children, and such additional weekends as the parties are able to agree on, from time to time.

#### **E. Mother's Day and Father's Day**

The custodial parent shall encourage and facilitate a call to the non-custodial parent on these days.

#### **F. Phone Contact**

When the child is in the care of the non-custodial or custodial parent for an extended period of time (e.g., one week) the child shall have the right to contact with the other parent by telephone or Internet. Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_

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If a child 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. Other Parenting Time Options**

1. Birthdays:
2. Childcare:
3. Other:

#### **H. 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.

#### **I. Clothing**

Each parent is responsible for providing adequate clothing for the child sufficient for the weather and events in which the child engages. When need or cost issues favor having only one item, such as seasonal clothing, snow boots or swim wear, these items should be transported back and forth with the child. This can be extended to particular toys or items for which a child has a special fondness (a blanket, toy etc.). Any clothing that is with the child at the beginning of parenting time should be returned with the child.

#### **J. Transportation**

OPTION Unless otherwise agreed or ordered by the court, the parent who is exercising parenting time is responsible for all transportation. Transportation can be provided by the parent or by a member of the parent's immediate family. All transportation shall be provided by a properly licensed individual who has a properly licensed and registered vehicle. All legally required restraints must be present and used.

OPTION Transportation time and costs shall be shared equally by the parties by meeting at a mid-point exchange site \_\_\_\_\_, or by the non-custodial parent picking up the children at the start of the parent's parenting time and the custodial parent picking the children up at the end of such parenting time.

#### **K. Contamination of Parenting Time**

Parents shall not use the parenting time exchange as an opportunity to exchange bills, discuss support issues, discuss parenting time or to behave disrespectfully toward the

other parent. If the Court finds at a later hearing that a parent is contaminating exchange of the child to the detriment of the child, that parent's time may be suspended until further order, and other sanctions may be imposed.

#### **L. Child's Medical Needs**

The custodial 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 child requires medical attention during parenting time, the noncustodial parent shall obtain treatment for the child and shall notify the custodial parent as soon as possible.

*OPTIONAL* In the event special equipment is necessary for the child's health, the parent exercising parenting time shall make arrangements to learn the use of the equipment and arrange for the equipment's transfer. When a parent has supervised parenting time, the supervisor should receive adequate training and instruction concerning any special needs the child may have and receive all necessary medication and doctor's written instructions

*OPTIONAL* Parents shall discuss the general health care needs of the child and advise each other of illness and treatment requirements. It is imperative that all knowledge of medical treatment be shared, for example, in a situation where follow up treatment may have to be provided by the parent who did not take the child initially to the doctor.

#### **M. Preparing a Child for Parenting Time**

The custodial parent should offer encouragement to prepare the child emotionally for the parenting time. Neither parent should use the parenting time as an occasion to cause concern or anxiety to the child. The custodial parent 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 child has a minor illness.
- ❖ The child had to go somewhere else.
- ❖ The child was not home.
- ❖ The noncustodial party is behind in support.
- ❖ The custodial parent did not want the child to go.
- ❖ The child refused to go.
- ❖ The other party failed to meet preconditions unilaterally established by the party allegedly denying parenting time.

#### **N. Extracurricular Activities**

*OPTIONAL* The parties should cooperate with each other when enrolling the child in extracurricular activities to ensure that the activities do not interfere with the ability of the child to exercise parenting time. Neither the custodial parent nor the non-custodial parent should enroll the child in excessive ac-

tivities which serve to interfere with the other's ability to spend time with the child.

*OPTIONAL* As the child grows, they are involved in different activities. As their developmental needs change, both parents need to be flexible with their parenting time schedule and allow room for adjustment. Because continuity in activities is important, parents must be willing to alter the parenting time schedule.

*OPTIONAL* Parents should keep one another apprised of all of the child'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.

### **O. Safety Issues**

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

### **P. Time for Parenting Time Exchange**

TIMES: 6:00 p.m. unless ordered or stipulated otherwise.

Neither parent should do anything to inconvenience the other in the exchange of the child. 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 child and the other parent.

### **Q. Makeup Parenting Time/Missed Parenting Time**

Makeup parenting time occurs when a child has 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. For example, a lost holiday would be replaced by the exact same holiday. 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.

### **R. 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.

**S. Further Court Orders**

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

**T. 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, or other alternate dispute resolution service.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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JENNIFER A. MAZZUCHI  
Circuit Judge