

**LOCAL PARENTING PLAN AND COMPANIONSHIP SCHEDULE**  
Court of Common Pleas, Wood County, Ohio  
Domestic Relations / Juvenile Division

Parenting time is a time for children to enjoy the companionship of the non-residential parent. Parents can effectively use this time by spending time with their children, developing a hobby, teaching them skills and helping them meet friends in the neighborhood.

If a child indicates a strong opposition to being with the other parent, it is the responsibility of each parent to appropriately deal with the situation, by calmly talking to the child as to the child's reasons, to work with the other parent to do what is in the child's best interests, and particularly to avoid confrontation or unpleasant scenes. If the matter is not settled, either parent should seek the immediate assistance of a mental health professional or file a motion with the court. As uncomfortable as this issue may be for a parent, this issue should not go unresolved. IT IS THE AFFIRMATIVE DUTY OF THE RESIDENTIAL PARENT TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT HIS OR HER CHILD GOES FOR THE PARENTING TIME PERIOD.

This Parenting Plan and Companionship Schedule is based upon two guiding principles: 1.) The child's age/development and 2.) Predictability for both the parents and the child.

Parents of very young child should keep in mind:

- For children up to age 2: At the time the residential parent and/or legal custodian start allowing other care givers to care for the child, the non-residential parent with parenting time should be equally involved.
- For children up to age 5: Vacation limits apply to both parents. Prolonged absence of children from either parent is not recommended.
- The child should be returned to the custodial parent's home one hour before bedtime. If this means ending earlier than the scheduled times, back up the beginning times accordingly. Total time will be the same. If bedtimes change, one week notice must be given.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Regardless of the parenting time schedule, the children's participation in extracurricular activities, school related or otherwise, shall continue uninterrupted. It shall be the responsibility of the parent in physical possession at the time of the activity to provide the physical and/or cost of transportation to these activities. The residential parent shall timely provide the other parent with notice of all extracurricular activities, school related or otherwise, in which the children participate, schedules of all extracurricular activities and the name of the activity leader (including address and telephone number if reasonably available).

Scheduled parenting time periods shall not be delayed or denied because a child has other scheduled activities (routine appointments, lessons, sports, etc.) If the activities are regularly scheduled and are not emergencies, they should be agreed upon in advance. Both parents are encouraged to attend all child(ren)'s activities and each parent is entitled by law to equal access to the student activities of their child(ren), unless limited by court order.

**WAITING:** The children and the residential parent have no duty to wait for the visiting parent for more than 15 minutes after the scheduled visitation time. A parent who is late forfeits parenting time for that period, unless other arrangements are made.

**CANCELLATION BY NON-RESIDENTIAL PARENT:** The non-residential parent must give 24-hour advance notice of intent NOT to exercise parenting time. Unless prior arrangements are made, a parent who does not exercise the parenting time forfeits that time. Failure to exercise scheduled time is upsetting to the child(ren). A parent who continually fails to exercise this right may have parenting time modified and may be subject to other legal remedies.

**ILLNESS:** If a child is ill, requiring medication or consultation with a doctor/dentist, each parent must notify the other as soon as possible. If the child becomes ill while with the residential parent prior to a scheduled parenting time period, the parent must contact the other parent and discuss the advisability of parenting time while considering the best interest of the child as the primary concern.

If the parents agree that there will be parenting time, the residential parent must provide written instructions and sufficient medication for the parenting time period. The non-residential parent shall notify the other parent if the child's condition worsens or does not improve as expected.

If one child is ill and does not participate in the parenting time period, other child(ren) shall enjoy their regularly scheduled parenting time period.

The non-residential parent shall seek emergency treatment if necessary for the child(ren) during his/her period of parenting time.

The residential parent shall communicate, in writing, any allergic or chronic condition of the minor child(ren), together with the medication and recommended treatment.

If the residential parent determines that the child(ren) needs immediate medical treatment during a time of scheduled visitation, the residential parent should give 24-hour notice, if possible, so that appropriate plans can be made by the non-residential parent. However, if more than twenty-four hours is missed due to non-emergency and/or non-critical illness, then any missed visitation shall be made up within 60 days.

**VACATIONS :** The non-residential parent has priority of choice for vacation parenting time dates if written notice is given to the other parent as shown below. If notice is not timely given, the residential parent has priority in scheduling any vacation plans. As part of each parent's summer parenting time, each parent may arrange a period of consecutive (uninterrupted) days as set forth below. Otherwise, no two summer weeks are to be taken consecutively by the non-residential parent. If otherwise allowed, during summer parenting time, the residential parent receives weekday parenting time as enjoyed by the non-residential parent during the rest of the year. The alternating weekends are to continue without interruption.

If summer school is necessary for the child to pass to the next grade, both parents shall ensure that it is completed.

A parent who takes the child(ren) out of town and overnight on vacation, shall provide a general itinerary to the other parent, including dates, locations, addresses, and telephone numbers.

**MOVING:** Either parent must notify the other in writing at least 30 days in advance of either parent's intent to change residence. Each parent shall provide a current address and telephone number to the other parent, at all times. If the parties move more than 150 miles apart, unless the parties agree otherwise, each shall comply with this Court's Long Distance Parenting Time Schedule without further order of the court.

**ACCESS TO RECORDS:** Both parents shall have access to all educational, medical, dental, optometric, psychiatric and psychological records of the minor child(ren) and may consult with any educators, treating physician, dentist or other health care provider to the children, subject to any specific limitations set forth in the court order. The residential parent shall list the non-residential parent as a parent on all required forms. Upon request of the non-residential parent, the residential parent shall immediately take whatever action is required to assist the non-residential parent in gaining access to all records of the minor child(ren).

**OTHER ACCESS:** The child(ren) must be allowed to communicate by telephone with both parents, a minimum of once per week. In addition, the parties may agree to allow email access to both parents.

**CLOTHING:** The residential parent is responsible for providing sufficient appropriate clean clothing for every parenting time period. The non-residential parent shall return all items sent with the child. If there is a need to send special clothing needs, the non-residential parent must notify the residential parent at least 2 days in advance of the parenting time.

**TRANSPORTATION:** It is the Court's intent that each parent provides half of the transportation. The parent who receives the child(ren) shall be responsible to transport the child(ren). The person who transports shall be a licensed, insured driver, shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and shall follow all traffic laws, including child restraint and seat belt laws.

**COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS:** It is the parent's responsibility, not the child(ren)'s, to make all parenting time arrangements.. Other than necessary for 16 and 17 year old children in discussing the parenting time schedules noted below, neither parent should communicate with a child about the issue of parenting time, or future events or activities which conflict with the other parent's scheduled time. It is not the child's responsibility to mediate or become involved in parental differences over parenting times, dates or activities. If the parties are unable to communicate with each other, they may use other adults to make parenting time arrangements. The best solution is to seek professional help to improve their ability to communicate for the best interest of the child(ren).

**DISCIPLINE:** It is presumed that the parents will use consistent discipline between the households and will communicate with each other concerning the need for discipline of the child(ren). If the parents disagree over the appropriate discipline or solutions to the child(ren)'s behavior, they should seek the help of a professional. Examples of concern are decline in grades, truancy problems, delinquency, or drastic changes in behavior.

**NON-COMPLIANCE:** Any of the rights or responsibilities outlined in this schedule may be enforced by the Court after the filing of an appropriate motion by either party. A parent may not withhold parenting rights because the other party does not obey a court order.

A parent who willfully fails to comply with this schedule may be found guilty of contempt of court, the penalty for which is a fine not to exceed \$250.00, and a jail sentence for an initial contempt not to exceed 30 days. The Court may also assess attorney fees, court costs, transportation cost and make-up parenting time in addition to any other remedy at law. Failure to obey court orders may also be the basis for a reallocation of parental rights.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Curb-Side Exchange - A legal term written into a court order if necessary. This prohibits the parent from entering upon the property of the other parent for exchange of the children. The

residential parent remains in the home while the other parent remains in the car and there is no communication between the parents. The parent who is picking up the child(ren) is to park in front of the home at the scheduled time and honk the horn once to notify the other parent to send the child(ren) to the car.

**IF THE COURT ORDER OR DECREE INDICATES THAT THE COURT SCHEDULE IS THE ORDER FOR PARENTING TIME/ACCESS, THEN THE ORDER OF THE COURT IS THE FOLLOWING: PARENTING TIME SHALL TAKE PLACE AT SUCH TIMES AND PLACES AS THE PARTIES CAN AGREE. This shall not be less than:**

**Age 0 - 4 Months:**

Frequent, short visits in the baby's home or  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. until  
7:00 p.m.

**Vacation:** None

**Holidays as set forth below:** From 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Age 5- 9 Months:**

**Fridays:** 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Sundays:** 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Midweek:** Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Vacation:** 24 hours on 2 occasions, first weekend of the month

**Holidays as set forth below:** From 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Age 10 - 18 Months:**

**Week 1:** Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Week 2:** Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday and Thursday:** from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Vacation:** 48 hours on 2 occasions with 30 days written notice

**Holidays as set forth below:** From 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Age 19 months - 3 Years:**

**Alternate Weekends:** Friday 6:00 PM to Sunday 6:00 PM

**Midweek:** 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**Vacation:** Five weeks including one occasion of 7 consecutive days with 60 days written notice

**Holidays as set forth below**

**Age 3 - 5 Years:**

**Alternate Weekends:** Friday 6:00 PM to Sunday 6:00 PM

**Midweek:** 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**Summer Vacation:** Five weeks, including one occasion of 10 consecutive days, with written notice by May 1.

**Holidays as set forth below**

**Age 6 - 16 Years:**

**Alternate Weekends:** Friday 6:00 PM to Sunday 6:00 PM

**Midweek:** 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**Vacation:** Five weeks, including one occasion of 14 days consecutive days, with written notice by May 1.

**Holidays as set forth below**

**Age 17 Years:**

On alternate weekends, child can choose either Saturday from 7:00 p.m. to Sunday at 7:00 p.m.; or Friday from 7:00 p.m. to Saturday at 7:00 p.m. with one week notice to non-residential parent

**Midweek:** 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

**Vacation:** Five weeks, with written notice by May 1 and with consideration for child's job and extracurricular schedule during the summer break

**Holidays as set forth below**

## **HOLIDAYS, MOTHER'S DAY; FATHER'S DAY; SCHOOL BREAKS**

<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Even Years</b>	<b>Odd Years</b>	<b>Days and Times - As Agreed or as Follows</b>
MLK Day	Parent 1	Parent 2	Ages 0-18 months, MLK Day at times above All others: 6 pm Sunday to 6 pm Monday
President's Day	Parent 2	Parent 1	Ages 0-18 months, President's Day at times above All others: 6 pm Sunday to 6 pm Monday
Easter Sunday	Parent 1	Parent 2	Ages 0-18 months, Easter Sunday at times above All others: 9 am to 6 pm
Spring Break	Parent 1	Parent 2	School aged children (Kindergarten and above): 6 pm day school ends to 6:00 PM day before school begins
Memorial Day	Parent 2	Parent 1	Ages 0-18 months, Memorial Day at times above All others: 6 pm Sunday to 6 pm Monday
Mother's Day	Mother or Parent 1	Mother or Parent 2	Ages 0-18 months, Mother's Day at times above All others: 9 am to 6 pm
Father's Day	Father or Parent 2	Father or Parent 1	Ages 0-18 months, Father's Day at times above All others: 9 am to 6 pm
Fourth of July	Parent 1	Parent 2	Ages 0-18 months, Fourth of July at times above All others: 6 pm July 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 6 pm July 4 <sup>th</sup>
Labor Day	Parent 2	Parent 1	Ages 0-18 months, Labor Day at times above All others: 6 pm Sunday to 6 pm Monday
Thanksgiving	Parent 1	Parent 2	Ages 0-18 months, Thanksgiving Day at times above All others: 6 pm Wednesday to 6 pm Thursday
Christmas Eve	Parent 2	Parent 1	Ages 0-18 months, Christmas Eve Day at times above All others: 6 pm December 23 <sup>rd</sup> to 9 pm December 24 <sup>th</sup>
Christmas Day	Parent 1	Parent 2	Ages 0-18 months, Christmas Day at times above All others: 9 pm December 24 <sup>th</sup> to 9 pm December 25 <sup>th</sup>

**For School Aged Children (Kindergarten and above)**

Christmas Break (First Half)	Parent 2	Parent 1	Divide into equal number of days based upon the schedule of the school district within which the children reside
Christmas Break (Second Half)	Parent 1	Parent 2	

- (A) Any alternating weekend visitation shall be interrupted as a consequence of the spring break schedule and the Christmas break schedule. Despite this interruption, the alternating weekend pattern shall continue as scheduled.
- (B) The children's birthdays will be spent with Parent 1 in even years and Parent 2 in odd years. Siblings should attend birthday events. Times are according to the child's availability or 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for a birthday falling on a weekend day or 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a birthday falling on a weekday.
- (C) Holidays and Birthdays take precedence over other parenting time in this schedule.
- (D) For parents that have children of various ages, they will abide by the time schedule for the oldest child so that all of the children will remain together for parenting time.

Magistrate Jill Varnes-Richardson  
Magistrate Michelle L. Christie

Judge Matthew L. Reger  
Judge Mary "Molly" L. Mack  
Judge Joel M. Kuhlman