

General Parenting Time Guidelines

This is a general parenting time guideline; each county may have their own changes to the schedule.

These general guidelines apply when the Court orders the non-custodial parent rights of reasonable and liberal parenting time with the minor children. If a parenting time order is, or becomes inconsistent, with a Personal Protection Order or the conditions of a bond between these same parties, in such case, the Personal Protection Order or the conditions of the bond shall take precedence over the terms of this Order. See MCR 3.706(C)(3).

This guideline for reasonable and liberal parenting time is a starting point, which the Court uses to determine the parenting time which is in the best interests of the minor children of the parties. The parenting time, which is ordered by the Court, will be based on the facts and circumstances of each case. Parties are always able to negotiate and consent to different parenting time terms, which are in the best interest of the minor children, for example special days such as Halloween, birthdays, etc.

Minimum Parenting Time:

The parties are encouraged to work with each other to allow the minor children to spend as much time with both parents, as is appropriate. The parties should work with each other, in the event of conflicts with their parenting time order, or special events, which may require that alternate parenting time arrangements be made between the parties. If a cancellation of the scheduled parenting time is required, notice of at least 24 hours should be provided to the other party. Alternate parenting time should be scheduled promptly between the parties in the event of conflicts. The parties should work together to consider the reasonable activities which the minor children are involved in and its impact on the court-ordered parenting time.

Cooperation:

The parents should cooperate with respect to the children to advance the children's health, emotional, and physical well-being and to give the children the affection of both parents and a sense of security. Neither parent should, directly or indirectly, influence the children to prejudice the children against the other parent. The parties should cooperate with each other in carrying out the provisions of their order for the children's best interest. Whenever it seems necessary to adjust, vary or increase the time allotted to either party, or otherwise act regarding the children, each of the parties should act in the best interests of the children. Neither party should do anything which may estrange the other from the children, injure the children's opinions of the other party, or otherwise hamper the free and natural development of the children of the other party.

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 with either parent. Parents should keep each other apprised of the activities of the minor children, to allow each other to attend or participate in the activity, and to plan for flexibility in parenting time arrangements.

Presence of Third Parties:

The requirement of the presence of third parties for supervision purposes, or the exclusion of third parties during periods of parenting time with minor children, are addressed by the Court on a case by case basis upon proper petition filed by either party.

General Parenting Time Guidelines:

1. Alternate Weekends are generally defined as being from Friday at 6:00 p.m. to Sunday at 6:00 p.m.
2. Weeknights are generally defined as being traditionally on Wednesday night from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. But another weeknight may be agreed upon by the parties. All exchanges will be made by the parties.
3. Telephone calls during parenting time are generally defined as each party shall be allowed to text or call the minor children at reasonable times while with the other parent.
4. Cohabitation of unrelated members of opposite sex are generally defined as neither party shall exercise parenting time in the presence of a person of the opposite sex, who is a non-family member for a period agreed upon by the parties. Rarely does the court order this unless the parties have agreed to the condition.
5. School districts and daycare are traditionally located based on the primary residence of the children.
6. Summer parenting time is typically given for extended periods of time to allow the parties to exercise vacation with the minor children. During the divorce or custody proceedings, the parties agree on the time frame for summer parenting time. The parties typically exchange in writing specific dates for summer parenting time by a specified date that they agree upon. The party who gives notice first is alternated on an annual basis.
7. Holidays are generally rotated on an annual basis. Holiday parenting time is defined as beginning from 6:00 p.m. the day or Friday before the holiday and ending at 9:00 p.m. the day of the holiday. However, the parties can create their own alternate holiday schedule as they agree and determine to be in the best interest of their children and may be based on a school holiday calendar. A typical Friend of the Court standard holiday parenting time would be as follows:

Holiday	Odd Years	Even Years	Every Year
Mid-Winter Break	Father	Mother	
Spring Break	Mother	Father	
Easter Sunday	Mother	Father	
Mother's Day			Mother
Memorial Day	Father	Mother	
Father's Day			Father
Fourth of July	Mother	Father	
Labor Day	Father	Mother	
Thanksgiving	Mother	Father	
First Half of Christmas Break	Father	Mother	
Second Half of Christmas Break	Mother	Father	
Father's Birthday			Father
Mother's Birthday			Mother

- a. Mid-Winter Break: The Father shall have parenting time in the years ending in odd number, and the Mother shall have parenting time in the years ending in even number. Mid-Winter break shall occur during the mid-winter break time for the school district that the children attend.
- b. Spring Break: The Father shall have parenting time in the years ending in an even number, and the Mother shall have parenting time in the years ending in an odd number. Spring break shall occur during the spring break time for the school district that the children attend.
- c. Easter Sunday: If not part of the Spring Break of the children's school district, then Easter Sunday begins the Saturday before Easter at 6:00 p.m. until Easter Sunday at 9:00 p.m. Otherwise, it shall be inclusive within the Spring Break parenting time.
- d. Mother's Day: The children shall be with their mother on Mother's Day from 6:00 p.m. on Friday until 9:00 p.m. on Sunday.
- e. Memorial Day: begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday until 9:00 p.m. on Memorial Day.
- f. Father's Day: The children shall be with their Father on Father's Day from 6:00 p.m. on Friday until 9:00 p.m. on Sunday.
- g. Fourth of July: begins at 6:00 p.m. on July 3rd and ends at 9:00 p.m. on July 5th.
- h. Labor Day: begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday until 9:00 p.m. on Labor Day.

- i. Thanksgiving: begins at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday before Thanksgiving and ends at 9:00 p.m. on Sunday following Thanksgiving.
- j. Christmas Break: The Father shall have parenting time in the first half of the Christmas vacation in the years ending in an odd number and the Mother shall have parenting time in the second half. The Mother shall have parenting time in the first half of the Christmas vacation in the years ending in an even number and the Father shall have parenting time in the second half. Christmas vacation parenting time shall occur during the Christmas vacation of the children's school district and shall begin at 6:00 p.m. the day school lets out for the holiday and shall end at 6:00 p.m. the day before school resumes. The parties shall equally share the number of overnights scheduled by the district for the Christmas holiday vacation.
- k. Birthdays of Parties: The mother shall have the children every year on her birthday and the father shall have the children every year on his birthday. The exercising parent shall have the children from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. if school is not in session, otherwise, the exercising parent shall have the children after school gets out until 9:00 p.m.
- l. Birthday of Children: Mother shall have the children in the years ending in an even number and the father will have the children in the years ending in an odd number.

The parties understand that this list is all the holiday parenting time recognized by the court. The parties also understand that if a holiday or school break parenting time abuts a parent's regularly scheduled parenting time, the parenting time shall be continuous. Holiday and school break parenting time take precedence over regularly scheduled parenting time and may result in one parent have two or more weekends in a row. The parties further understand that they are responsible for transportation at the beginning of their parenting time during the holiday schedule or the beginning of the regular parenting time that abuts a holiday schedule.