

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

In re: Standard Parenting Time Order

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Page 868

(Effective July 1, 2010)

The needs and circumstances of each child and of each parent are unique and these needs and circumstances change over time. Therefore, the Court strongly encourages parents to agree on a parenting time schedule that is specifically tailored to meet the specific needs and circumstances of their child and of each other. Parents having difficulty reaching an agreement on a parenting time schedule may utilize the Court's mediation program free of charge. More information about the mediation program is available by contacting the Court at (740)455-7190.

Parents who wish to adopt the Court's Standard Parenting Time Order by agreement should carefully review the standard parenting time schedule and adjust it to accommodate their specific circumstances.

In cases where the parents fail to agree on a parenting time schedule, the Court will adopt its Standard Parenting Time Order as the *minimum* parenting time schedule in the case, unless that schedule would not be in the child's best interest because of the specific circumstances in the case.

All provisions of the Standard Parenting Time Order other than the parenting time schedules are incorporated by reference into all parenting orders, including orders adopting parenting plans, unless 1) the parenting order expressly states otherwise or 2) a specific term of the parenting order is in direct conflict with a provision of the Standard Parenting Time Order, in which case the specific term of the parenting order shall prevail.

STANDARD PARENTING TIME ORDER

For

Children Under Eighteen (18) Months of Age

Because of the developmental needs of very young children, it is imperative that both parents frequently observe, share, and participate in activities with the child. The Court encourages the nonresidential parent to exercise parenting time frequently with the child, even if the duration of each visit is relatively short. Over time, the duration of each visit should increase and the frequency of the visits may decrease.

Unless the parents agree otherwise, they shall comply with the following parenting time order, *as a minimum*, until the child reaches the age of 18 months.

- 1. Birth to six months:** The nonresidential parent shall exercise parenting time every other day from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

2. **Six months to one year:** The nonresidential parent shall exercise parenting time every other day from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. In addition, the nonresidential parent shall exercise parenting time every Saturday from noon until 7:30 p.m.
3. **One year to 18 months:** The nonresidential parent shall exercise parenting time on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. In addition, the nonresidential parent shall exercise parenting time every weekend from 6:00 p.m. on Friday until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday.
4. **Transportation:** The nonresidential parent shall provide transportation at the beginning of his or her parenting time period and the residential parent shall provide transportation at the end of that parenting time period. If circumstances prevent a parent from personally providing transportation, another responsible adult, such as a grandparent or stepparent, may provide the transportation. (However, parenting time does not mean picking up the child and then leaving the child with someone else.)
5. **Promptness:** The child and the residential parent have no duty to await the nonresidential parent for more than thirty (30) minutes at the beginning of the nonresidential parent's parenting time. A nonresidential parent who is more than thirty (30) minutes late shall forfeit that parenting time period. Except in cases of last-minute emergencies, a parent who cannot exercise parenting time as scheduled shall notify the other parent at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance.
6. **Child's Illness:** Because parenting includes the responsibility to care for the child during periods of illness, as well as during periods of health, parenting time should not ordinarily be canceled because of the child's illness. If the child's illness is so severe as to require parenting time to be cancelled, the cancelled parenting time need not be rescheduled.
7. **Clothing, diapers, formula, etc...:** The nonresidential parent shall be responsible for providing diapers, formula, bottles, etc... for the child's use during his or her parenting time. The residential parent shall provide clothing for the child's use during parenting time with the nonresidential parent. The clothing shall be appropriate to the season and in sufficient quantity. The nonresidential parent shall return the clothing provided by the residential parent at the end of the parenting time period.
8. **Medication:** If the child is taking medication (prescription or non-prescription) upon the advice of a physician, the residential parent shall send with the child sufficient medication to last the entire parenting time period, **WRITTEN** instructions for the administration of the medication to the child, and the name and telephone number of the physician or other appropriate medical care provider. Absent extraordinary circumstances, the nonresidential parent shall administer the medication to the child according to the residential parent's written instructions and shall return any unused medication to the residential parent at the end of the parenting time period.
9. **Communication between Parents:** Parents shall communicate directly with each other about matters concerning the child. EXCEPT IN AN EMERGENCY, PARENTS SHALL NOT USE THE CHILD, A RELATIVE, OR ANY OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBER AS A MESSENGER OR GO-BETWEEN. Each parent shall provide the other parent with his or

her current residence address, mailing address, and telephone number, and shall immediately notify the other parent of any changes in that information.

10. **Notification of Illness/Injury:** A parent shall immediately notify the other parent when a child suffers any illness or injury that requires treatment by a physician or other health care provider.
11. **Notice of Relocation:** If the residential parent intends to move his or her residence, the residential parent shall immediately file a written relocation notice with the Court, unless otherwise ordered. The written notice shall include the following: a) the case number under which the original parenting time or visitation order was issued; b) the residential parent's name, old address, and new address; and c) the nonresidential parent's name and present address. Upon receipt of this notice, the Court shall file the original and send the nonresidential parent a copy of the notice.
12. **Relocation:** If a parent intends to relocate his or her residence and the relocation will increase the distance from the other parent's home by more than thirty (30) miles, the relocating parent shall first obtain a modified parenting time order that accommodates the increased distance and travel time.
13. **Records Access:** Subject to Sections 3125.16 and 3319.321(F) Ohio Revised Code, the nonresidential parent is entitled to access any record related to the child under the same terms and conditions that access is provided to the residential parent. **NOTICE TO KEEPER OF RECORDS: Any keeper of a record who knowingly fails to comply with this order or with Section 3109.051 (H) Ohio Revised Code is in Contempt of Court.**
14. **Day Care Center Access:** The nonresidential parent shall have access, in accordance with Section 5104.011 Ohio Revised Code, to any child day care center attended by the child under the same terms and conditions that access is provided to the residential parent.
15. **School Activity Access:** Subject to Section 3319.321(F) Ohio Revised Code, the nonresidential parent shall have access to any student activity involving the child under the same terms and conditions that access is provided to the residential parent. **NOTICE TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES: Any school official or employee who knowingly fails to comply with this order or with Section 3109.051(J) Ohio Revised Code is in Contempt of Court.**
16. **Mediation Clause:** Before filing formal court action to enforce or modify the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities, including parenting time, parents shall attempt to resolve disputes through mediation.
17. **Modifications:** Parents may informally modify how parenting time is exercised by agreement. However, unless the Court has approved the modification in writing, the parents must resume using the court-ordered parenting time schedule if either party so desires.
18. **IT IS THE AFFIRMATIVE DUTY OF THE PARENT EXERCISING PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF THE CHILD TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE CHILD GOES FOR ALL PARENTING TIME PERIODS WITH THE OTHER PARENT.**

**STANDARD PARENTING TIME ORDER
For
Children Eighteen (18) Months of Age and Older**

Unless the parents agree otherwise, they shall comply with the following parenting time order, *as a minimum*, after the child reaches the age of 18 months.

1. **Weekends:** The nonresidential parent shall exercise parenting time every other weekend from Friday at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Unless the parents agree otherwise, the nonresidential parent shall be responsible for providing the child's evening meal on Sunday before the child returns to the residential parent.
2. **Weekdays:** The nonresidential parent shall exercise parenting time every Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Unless the parents agree otherwise, the nonresidential parent shall be responsible for providing the child's evening meal before the child returns to the residential parent.
3. **Holidays:**

(A) The parents shall exercise parenting time during holidays as follows:

Even-Numbered Years	
Residential Parent	Nonresidential Parent
Martin Luther King Day: from 5:00 p.m. the day before the holiday until 7:30 p.m. on the holiday.	President's Day: from 5:00 p.m. the day before the holiday until 7:30 p.m. on the holiday.
Easter: from 5:00 p.m. the day before Easter to 7:30 p.m. on Easter Day.	Spring Break: from 5:00 p.m. the day school recesses until 7:30 p.m. the day before school resumes, but <u>only if</u> the child is in school <u>and</u> the child's school schedule provides a spring break.
Fourth of July: from 5:00 p.m. on July 3 rd to 7:30 on July 5 th .	Memorial Day: from 5:00 p.m. the day before the holiday until 7:30 p.m. on the holiday.
Thanksgiving: from 5:00 p.m. the day before Thanksgiving until 7:30 p.m. the day after Thanksgiving.	Labor Day: from 5:00 p.m. the day before the holiday until 7:30 p.m. on the holiday.
Christmas Holiday: from 9:00 a.m. the day after school recesses (or 9:00 a.m. on December 20 if the child does not attend school) until noon on December 25.	Christmas Holiday: from noon on December 25 through 7:30 p.m. on January 1.
Child's Birthday: from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on the child's birthday (if more than one child, parenting time shall be with all of the children).	Child's Birthday: from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on the <u>day after</u> the child's birthday (if more than one child, parenting time shall be with all of the children).

Odd-Numbered Years	
Nonresidential Parent	Residential Parent
Martin Luther King Day: from 5:00 p.m. the day before the holiday until 7:30 p.m. on the holiday.	President's Day: from 5:00 p.m. the day before the holiday until 7:30 p.m. on the holiday.
Easter: from 5:00 p.m. the day before Easter to 7:30 p.m. on Easter Day.	Spring Break: from 5:00 p.m. the day school recesses until 7:30 p.m. the day before school resumes, but <u>only if</u> the child is in school <u>and</u> the child's school schedule provides a spring break.
Fourth of July: from 5:00 p.m. on July 3 rd to 7:30 on July 5 th .	Memorial Day: from 5:00 p.m. the day before the holiday until 7:30 p.m. on the holiday.
Thanksgiving: from 5:00 p.m. the day before Thanksgiving until 7:30 p.m. the day after Thanksgiving.	Labor Day: from 5:00 p.m. the day before the holiday until 7:30 p.m. on the holiday.
Christmas Holiday: from 9:00 a.m. the day after school recesses (or 9:00 a.m. on December 20 if the child does not attend school) until noon on December 25.	Christmas Holiday: from noon on December 25 through 7:30 p.m. on January 1.
Child's Birthday: from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on the child's birthday (if more than one child, parenting time shall be with all of the children).	Child's Birthday: from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on the <u>day after</u> the child's birthday (if more than one child, parenting time shall be with all of the children).

(B) Mother's/Father's Day: On Mother's Day and Father's Day, no matter whose turn for parenting time, the child shall be with the appropriate parent from 9:00 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

(C) Parent's Birthday: On a parent's birthday, no matter whose turn for parenting time, the child shall be with that parent from 9:00 a.m. (or, if the child is in school on that day, from after school) until 7:30 p.m.

(D) Other Days of Special Meaning: Parenting time during other times of special meaning to the parents and child, such as Kwanza, Passover, Rosh Hashanah, should be decided by agreement. If the parents cannot agree, they shall alternate these days of special meaning in the same manner as they alternate the holidays listed in Paragraph 3(A).

4. Summer: (One option must be selected at the time the parenting time order is issued.)

(A) Option 1 (Two-week rotating schedule): During the child's summer break from school, the parents shall exercise parenting time in alternating two-week periods (beginning and ending at 5:00 p.m. on Fridays). The nonresidential parent shall exercise the first two week block of summer parenting time, which shall begin at 5:00 p.m. on the first Friday after school recesses for the summer, followed by the

residential parent exercising a two-week block of summer parenting time. This alternating pattern shall continue during the remainder of the summer school recess. The summer parenting time schedule shall end at 5:00 p.m. on the last Friday before school resumes at the end of summer. (If the child is not attending school, "summer" shall begin on the first Friday in June and end on the last Friday in August.) The regular weekend and midweek parenting time schedule shall not apply during the summer; however, holiday parenting time takes precedence over the summer parenting time schedule. The regular weekend and midweek parenting time schedule shall resume on the first Friday after school begins.

(B) Option 2 (One-week rotating schedule): During the child's summer break from school, the parents shall exercise parenting time on alternating weeks (beginning and ending at 5:00 p.m. on Fridays). The nonresidential parent shall exercise the first week of summer parenting time, which shall begin at 5:00 p.m. on the first Friday after school recesses for the summer, followed by the residential parent exercising a week of summer parenting time. This alternating pattern shall continue during the remainder of the summer school recess. The summer parenting time schedule shall end at 5:00 p.m. on the last Friday before school resumes at the end of summer. (If the child is not attending school, "summer" shall begin on the first Friday in June and end on the last Friday in August.) The regular weekend and midweek parenting time schedule shall not apply during the summer; however, holiday parenting time takes precedence over the summer parenting time schedule. The regular weekend and midweek parenting time schedule shall resume on the first Friday after school begins.

(C) Option 3 (Summer divided on July 15): In even-numbered years the residential parent shall exercise parenting time until 5:00 p.m. on July 15, and the nonresidential parent shall exercise parenting time beginning 5:00 p.m. on July 15 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the last Friday before school resumes at the end of summer. In odd-numbered years, the nonresidential parent shall exercise parenting time beginning 5:00 p.m. on the day after school recesses for the summer and ending at 5:00 p.m. on July 15, and the residential parent shall exercise parenting time beginning at 5:00 p.m. on July 15 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the last Friday before school resumes at the end of summer. (If the child is not attending school, "summer" shall begin on the first Friday in June and end on the last Friday in August.) Alternating weekend and midweek parenting time shall be exercised by the parent who is not exercising his or her half of the summer schedule; however, the parent exercising his or her half of the summer schedule may take a vacation with the child of not more than fourteen days, uninterrupted by the other parent's weekend and midweek parenting time. Holiday parenting time takes precedence over the summer parenting time schedule.

5. Split Custody Situations: Where each parent is the residential parent of one or more of their children, parenting time should be exercised so that the children are together each weekend, during all holidays, and during the summer. Unless the parents agree otherwise, the parent whose birthday occurs earliest in a calendar year shall be considered the "residential parent" of all of the children for the limited purpose of allocating parenting time for holidays and the summer.

6. **School Work:** The nonresidential parent shall provide adequate time for the child to study and complete homework assignments, even if the completion of homework interferes with the parent's plans for the child. The residential parent is responsible for providing the nonresidential parent with information about these homework assignments.
7. **Extracurricular Activities:** The child should be permitted to continue participating in extracurricular activities, school related or otherwise, regardless of which parent is exercising parenting time. **The parents shall consult with each other about the scheduling of extracurricular activities.** The parent exercising parenting time when an extracurricular activity is scheduled shall provide the child's transportation to the activity. Each parent shall provide the other parent with a schedule of all extracurricular activities, and the name, address, and telephone number of the activity leader. The parent who is not exercising parenting time when an activity occurs is entitled to attend and participate in the activity to the same extent the other parent is entitled to attend and participate in the activity.
8. **Electronic Communication:** A parent and the child shall be permitted to communicate with each other by available electronic media (e.g. telephone, cell phone, email, fax, web cam, etc...). Telephone and cell phone calls shall be made during the child's normal waking hours. If the child is unavailable for conversation when a call from a parent is made, the parent exercising physical custody of the child shall permit the child to return the call within a reasonable time.
9. **Transportation:** The nonresidential parent shall provide transportation at the beginning of his or her parenting time period and the residential parent shall provide transportation at the end of that parenting time period. If circumstances prevent a parent from personally providing transportation, another responsible adult, such as a grandparent or stepparent, may provide the transportation. (However, parenting time does not mean picking up the child and then leaving the child with someone else.)
10. **Promptness:** The child and the residential parent have no duty to await the nonresidential parent for more than thirty (30) minutes at the beginning of the nonresidential parent's parenting time. A nonresidential parent who is more than thirty (30) minutes late shall forfeit that parenting time period. Except in cases of last-minute emergencies, a parent who cannot exercise parenting time as scheduled shall notify the other parent at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance.
11. **Child's Illness:** Because parenting includes the responsibility to care for the child during periods of illness, as well as during periods of health, parenting time should not ordinarily be canceled because of the child's illness. If the child's illness is so severe as to require parenting time to be cancelled, the cancelled parenting time need not be rescheduled.
12. **Clothing:** The residential parent shall provide clothing for the child's use during parenting time with the nonresidential parent. The clothing shall be appropriate to the season and in sufficient quantity. (When the duration of the parenting time exceeds two overnights, the nonresidential parent is expected to launder or clean the child's clothing as needed.) The nonresidential parent shall return the clothing provided by the residential parent at the end of the parenting time period.

13. **Medication:** If the child is taking medication (prescription or non-prescription) upon the advice of a physician, the residential parent shall send with the child sufficient medication to last the entire parenting time period, **WRITTEN** instructions for the administration of the medication to the child, and the name and telephone number of the physician or other appropriate medical care provider. Absent extraordinary circumstances, the nonresidential parent shall administer the medication to the child according to the residential parent's written instructions and shall return any unused medication to the residential parent at the end of the parenting time period.
14. **Communication between Parents:** Parents shall communicate directly with each other about matters concerning the child. EXCEPT IN AN EMERGENCY, PARENTS SHALL NOT USE THE CHILD, A RELATIVE, OR ANY OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBER AS A MESSENGER OR GO-BETWEEN. Each parent shall provide the other parent with his or her current residence address, mailing address, and telephone number, and shall immediately notify the other parent of any changes in that information.
15. **Notification of Illness/Injury:** A parent shall immediately notify the other parent when a child suffers any illness or injury that requires treatment by a physician or other health care provider.
16. **Notice of Relocation:** If the residential parent intends to move his or her residence, the residential parent shall immediately file a written relocation notice with the Court, unless otherwise ordered. The written notice shall include the following: a) the case number under which the original parenting time or visitation order was issued; b) the residential parent's name, old address, and new address; and c) the nonresidential parent's name and present address. Upon receipt of this notice, the Court shall file the original and send the nonresidential parent a copy of the notice.
17. **Relocation:** If a parent intends to relocate his or her residence and the relocation will increase the distance from the other parent's home by more than thirty (30) miles, the relocating parent shall first obtain a modified parenting time order that accommodates the increased distance and travel time.
18. **Records Access:** Subject to Sections 3125.16 and 3319.321(F) Ohio Revised Code, the nonresidential parent is entitled to access any record related to the child under the same terms and conditions that access is provided to the residential parent. **NOTICE TO KEEPER OF RECORDS: Any keeper of a record who knowingly fails to comply with this order or with Section 3109.051 (H) Ohio Revised Code is in Contempt of Court.**
19. **Day Care Center Access:** The nonresidential parent shall have access, in accordance with Section 5104.011 Ohio Revised Code, to any child day care center attended by the child under the same terms and conditions that access is provided to the residential parent.
20. **School Activity Access:** Subject to Section 3319.321(F) Ohio Revised Code, the nonresidential parent shall have access to any student activity involving the child under the same terms and conditions that access is provided to the residential parent. **NOTICE TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES: Any school official or employee who knowingly fails to comply with this order or with Section 3109.051(J) Ohio Revised Code is in Contempt of Court.**

21. **Mediation Clause:** Before filing formal court action to enforce or modify the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities, including parenting time, parents shall attempt to resolve disputes through mediation.
22. **Modifications:** Parents may informally modify how parenting time is exercised by agreement. However, unless the Court has approved the modification in writing, the parents must resume using the court-ordered parenting time schedule if either party so desires.
23. **IT IS THE AFFIRMATIVE DUTY OF THE RESIDENTIAL PARENT TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE CHILD GOES FOR ALL PARENTING TIME WITH THE NONRESIDENTIAL PARENT.**

IT IS SO ORDERED

Effective: _____

JUDGE JEFFREY A. HOOPER