

UNION COUNTY COMMON PLEAS AND JUVENILE COURT  
STANDARD PARENTING TIME GUIDELINES  
Domestic Relations Local Rules 18.08 and 12.2  
Juvenile Local Rule 22.0(B)

FOR PARENTS TRAVELING OVER 175 MILES ONE WAY

This schedule enumerates the parenting time rights of the child(ren) and the parents. In addition to enumerating the specific days, dates, and times during which parenting time may be exercised – and is expected to be exercised, this schedule enumerates the conditions and the court’s expectations pursuant to which parenting time shall be exercised. The residential parent is reminded the nonresidential parent is still a parent of the child(ren) notwithstanding this marriage/relationship is ending or has ended. Both parents are reminded these parenting time rights are intended to benefit the child(ren) as much as, if not more than, either parent. These are parenting time guidelines only. The court reserves the right to modify these guidelines in the child(ren)’s best interest. Any deviation shall be separately submitted to and considered by the court and incorporated into a final order.

*It is recommended that these guidelines not be routinely used in actions involving children less than three years old. A case-by-case schedule may be more appropriate for these children. For example, in the case of an infant less than 6 months old, frequent short visits per agreement between the parties of not less than 3 times per week for periods of two hours, more or less may be appropriate. In the case of a child from 6 months to three years, frequent short visits of not less than 3 times per week for periods of two hours, more or less and one overnight three times per month may be appropriate. The foregoing are examples and do not constitute an order of the court.*

*These guidelines also shall not be routinely used in actions in which the parent and child(ren) have not interacted for a long time and the best interest of the child(ren) will be served by a phase-in period of parenting time to acquaint or re-acquaint the parent and the child(ren). The schedule of parenting time shall be devised on a case-by-case basis.*

Activities you engage in with your child(ren), skills you teach them, or friends you help them make will make their time with you more rewarding. Additionally, regardless of how much time each parent spends with the children, there are many opportunities to be involved in their lives, such as participation and attendance in their school, sports, and extracurricular activities.

Regardless of where the children are living, their participation in existing and renewed extracurricular activities, school related or otherwise, shall if practical continue with due consideration being given to the non residential parent’s parenting time.

**PARENTING TIME BETWEEN THE CHILDREN AND THE NON-RESIDENTIAL PARENT SHALL TAKE PLACE AT SUCH TIMES AND PLACES AS THE PARTIES MAY AGREE, BUT WILL NOT BE LESS THAN:**

1. Pre-School Age: Unless otherwise agreed, pre-school age children shall follow the same schedule as school age children in the school district where they live, whether or not a school age child resides in the family. Frequent contact with both parents is recommended for very young children.

2. THANKSGIVING: In even-numbered years the child(ren) and the nonresidential parent shall exercise parenting time from 7:00 p.m. the Wednesday preceding Thanksgiving to 7:00 p.m. Sunday. In odd-numbered years the child(ren) and the residential parent shall exercise this parenting time.

3. CHRISTMAS: In odd-numbered years the child(ren) and the nonresidential parent shall exercise parenting time from 7:00 p.m. on the last day of school (or, if none of the children attend school, from 7:00 p.m. on December 16) to 9:30 a.m. December 25; and the child(ren) and the residential parent shall exercise parenting time from 9:30 a.m. December 25 to 7:00 p.m. January 1. In even-numbered years this parenting time shall be reversed.

4. Spring Break: The non-residential parent shall be entitled to the entire school vacation (the day school is out to the day before school recommences) in odd-numbered years. In even-numbered years this parenting time shall be reversed.

5. Summer: Each parent shall be entitled to one half of the school summer vacation. The residential parent shall notify the non-residential parent by March 15 of when the summer vacation begins and ends. The non-residential parent must notify the residential parent as to their intentions by April 15.

a. If the parties cannot agree which half of the summer they prefer, in the even-numbered years, the first half of the summer shall be spent at the home of the non-residential parent, and in the odd-numbered years, the second half.

b. A general itinerary should be provided either parent if more than 2 days will be spent away from either home when the children are in that parent's care.

6. Vacations: As part of each parent's summer parenting time, each parent may arrange an uninterrupted vacation of not more than two weeks with the children. If this includes a trip away from home a general itinerary of the vacation shall be provided for the other parent, including dates, locations, addresses, and telephone numbers.

7. Additional Parenting time:

a. Weekend: The children and the nonresidential parent may exercise parenting time one weekend a month. As part of the final orders the court shall designate

in writing which weekend this parenting time shall occur. Any changes to this designated weekend shall be agreed to in writing by the parties.

b. Father's Day and Mother's Day should always be spent with the appropriate parent.

c. The non-residential parent shall notify the residential parent as least two days in advance of any time the non-residential parent will be in the area and wants parenting time. Absent extraordinary circumstances, this parenting time shall occur.

d. The residential parent shall notify the non-residential parent at least two days in advance when the residential parent and child(ren) will be in the area of the non-residential parent, and parenting time must be allowed.

8. If a potential conflict between two or more of the preceding parenting time provisions occurs, then the first listed shall be exercised. The alternating weekend parenting time schedule continues, however, as if the holiday had not intervened. This means that one parent may have the children three (3) weekends in a row.

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9. CANCELLATION, MAKE-UP: If the nonresidential parent must cancel a parenting time period, he or she shall notify the residential parent and the child(ren) as soon as possible. The nonresidential parent shall cancel parenting time only for an emergency such as a change in his or her work schedule or an illness in his or her household. The nonresidential parent shall not cancel parenting time because he or she does not feel like exercising it.

An illness or injury sufficiently serious to keep the child(ren) in bed through the parenting time period shall be the only reason the residential parent may cancel parenting time. If the residential parent must cancel a parenting time period, he or she shall notify the nonresidential parent as soon as possible. The nonresidential parent may, at his or her election, spend up to one hour beginning at the usual commencement time of the parenting time period with the ill or injured child. The child(ren) who is not ill or injured shall exercise parenting time with the nonresidential parent. The parent who cancels a parenting time period shall explain it to the child(ren). The cancelled parenting time period shall be made up within sixty days at a time agreed upon by the parties.

10. PICK-UP, RETURN: Transportation of the child(ren) shall be the shared responsibility of the residential parent and the nonresidential parent. The parent acquiring physical custody of the child(ren) shall provide the transportation. The residential parent shall have the child(ren) physically and emotionally ready to go at the commencement of each parenting time period. The nonresidential parent shall pick up the child(ren) on time or within one-half hour or forfeit that parenting time period. The nonresidential parent shall not return the child(ren) from parenting time early without prior notice to and consent of the residential parent, and shall only do so in the event an

emergency arises. If the nonresidential parent is unavailable to pick up or return the child(ren), an adult well known to the children may do so. Only licensed drivers may transport the child(ren). No person transporting the child(ren) shall have consumed any alcohol or drugs of abuse or be under the influence of drugs. The use of police stations is discouraged except as may be necessary for security. Children may be adversely affected by the perception that their parents are likely to be involved in violence unless the police are present.

11. CLOTHING: The parents shall cooperate in the exchange of the children's clothing prior to and following parenting time. Each parent shall provide diapers and formula. The brand shall be determined by the residential parent based upon the child's customary use.

12. COMMUNICATION: The child(ren) can call either parent as often as they wish, at reasonable times, so long as there is no expense to the parent in present possession of the child(ren). The non-possessory parent shall be entitled to telephone communication with the children not less than three times per week for not less than 15 minutes per call.

All mail from one parent to the child(ren) shall be confidential and shall not be opened or ready by the other parent without the child(ren)'s prior voluntary consent. Neither parent shall impede reasonable telephone communication between the child(ren) and the other parent.

Emergency Contact: Both parents shall at all times, regardless of whether the children are with him/her, provide the other parent with a telephone number for contact in the event of an emergency.

13. MOVING: Upon either parent learning that he/she will be moving, he/she shall immediately notify the other parent except in those circumstance wherein notice is not required by R.C. 3109.051(G), and provide the other parent with the moving date, new residence address, and telephone number, and such other pertinent information necessary to effectuate a smooth move for the child(ren). The parents shall attempt, in good faith, to renegotiate an appropriate and beneficial new parenting time schedule .

14. ACCESS: Pursuant to O.R.C 3109.051 (H) the court orders the nonresidential parent shall have access to any record related to the child(ren) under the same terms and conditions as the residential parent. Any keeper of a record who knowingly fails to comply with this order is in contempt of court.

Pursuant to O.R.C. 3109.051 (I) the court orders the nonresidential parent shall have access to any day care center in which the child(ren) is enrolled or attends under the same terms and conditions as the residential parent.

Pursuant to O.R.C. 3109.051 (J) the court orders the nonresidential parent shall have access to any student activity related to the child(ren) upon the same terms and conditions as the residential parent. Any school official or employee who knowingly fails to comply with this order is in contempt of court.

The court may issue a separate Order and Notice containing these three access provisions.

15. LOVE AND RESPECT; NO CRITICISM: Each parent shall encourage the child(ren) to love, respect and obey the other parent. Neither parent shall criticize the other parent before the child(ren) nor permit the child(ren) to associate with any person who criticizes the other parent.

16. ADDRESS, TELEPHONE: Each parent shall provide the other parent with:

- (a) Current residence address and mailing address, if different, and telephone Number
- (b) Notification to the other parent of any change in this information within 48 hours of said change.

The residential parent shall notify the non-residential parent and the court, of his or her intent to move with the child(ren) to a new residence and provide the complete address of that new residence at least thirty days in advance of such move.

17. SUMMER SCHOOL: Summer school necessary for the child(ren) to pass to the next grade must be attended.

18. MEDICATION: In all instances in which it is necessary for a child to take prescribed medications, the residential parent shall provide the non-residential parent with an adequate supply of such medications to care for the child's needs during the course of parenting time at the beginning of each parenting time session.

The residential parent shall also provide the non-residential parent with copies of the explanatory material issued by the pharmacy or, in lieu of this information, a typed or legibly written document setting forth the times of administration of medications, an explanation of whether food should be taken with such medication, a list of any potential side effects known to the residential parent and the name, address, and telephone number of the child's pediatrician and pharmacist. The residential parent shall provide this information to the non-residential parent on the first visit following the prescribing of such medication for the child.

All medications shall be administered to the child by the non-residential parent as prescribed. If the non-residential parent is not physically present to administer medications at the prescribed times, then it shall be the responsibility of such parent to

designate an adult of suitable maturity and judgment to administer the medications as prescribed.

*19. ALTERATIONS OF CHILD(RENS)'S PHYSICAL APPEARANCE. The non-residential parent shall not alter the physical appearance of the child(ren) without the prior written consent of the residential parent. This includes the cutting or coloring of the child(ren)'s hair, the piercing of ears or other parts of the body, permanent tattooing, or any other act that appreciably alters the physical appearance of the child(ren).*

*20. CHILD SAFETY. In all instances in which a child is required by Ohio law to be transported in a child safety seat, the non-residential parent shall be responsible for transporting the child in a properly installed child safety seat. In all other instances, the non-residential parent shall be responsible to transport the child(ren) using a properly functioning seat belt. Only a driver with a current, valid license may transport the child(ren).*

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The court encourages the parents to cooperate regarding this parenting time schedule to ensure the parenting time works well and is in the best interest of the child(ren).

(10-14-2010)