

## **HURON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT PARENTING TIME GUIDELINES**

### **I. GENERAL GUIDELINES**

- A. Parenting time shall take place at such times and places upon which the parties agree.
- B. Parenting time does not include picking up the children and leaving them with someone else while the visiting parent pursues their own recreation which excludes the children.
- C. The Residential Parent shall send with the children sufficient clothing and outerwear appropriate to the season.
- D. The Non-Residential Parent shall be entitled to have frequent and continuing contact with the child through telephone, texting or email, but is expected to be reasonable. During extended parenting time with the Non-Residential Parent, the Residential Parent shall have the same privileges detailed above. The calling party shall bear the expense, if any.
- E. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENTS, NOT THE CHILD, TO MAKE ALL PARENTING TIME ARRANGEMENTS.** 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 allotted times. It is not the responsibility of a child to mediate or become involved in parental differences over parenting times, dates or activities. If the parents have temporary difficulty communicating about either parenting time or the needs of their child, parents should not enlist the child to resolve their dispute.
- F. Both parents are entitled by law to equal access to their child's school records, unless otherwise limited by Court order.
- G. The Residential Parent shall, upon request by the Non-Residential Parent, immediately comply with whatever action is required to provide access to any medical, dental, hospital, surgical, optometric or mental health records of the minor children, including the signing of a full release. Both parents are entitled to equal access to these records, unless limited by Court order.
- H. Each parent shall have a right of first refusal if the other parent will be unavailable for more than 6 hours during their time with the child. It is the responsibility of the receiving parent to pick up the child. The other parent may then retrieve the child to

continue the previously scheduled parenting time when he or she becomes available again.

## II. WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Non-Residential Parents are to have frequent and continuing contact with their minor children. The following schedules for Non-Residential Parents are to be followed in the absence of an agreement between parents or an Order of the Court to the contrary.

### A. Infants to 9-months

2 hours, three times weekly, the times of which will be set to accommodate both parents' work schedules. If parents cannot agree, the visits shall be Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### B. 9-months through emancipation

1 evening per week from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. if the parents reside in the same or adjoining counties, and subject to the child's scholastic and extracurricular activities. If parents cannot agree on the day for this mid-week visit to occur, it shall occur on Wednesday.

Alternating weekends from Thursday at 6:00 p.m. to Sunday at 6:00 p.m. It shall be the responsibility of the Non-Residential Parent to transport the child to school or preschool on Friday mornings during these alternating weekends.

## III. HOLIDAYS

The following holiday schedule shall be used in the absence of an agreement between parents, and shall take priority over the weekly schedule set forth above.

### A. Even Numbered Years

Mothers shall have the child on 1) Spring Break, if applicable and only if different than Easter Weekend; 2) Memorial Day Weekend from Friday at 6:00 p.m. to Monday Night at 6:00 p.m.; 3) Labor Day Weekend from Friday at 6:00 p.m. to Monday Night at 6:00 p.m.; 4) Thanksgiving, from Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. to Friday night at 6:00 p.m.; 5) Christmas Eve from 12:00 p.m. (noon) until Christmas Day at 12:00 p.m. (noon); and 6) Child's birthday from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Fathers shall have the child on 1) Easter Weekend from Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. to Sunday night at 6:00 p.m.; 2) Fourth of July from 6:00 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July; and 3) Christmas vacation and New Year's Day from Christmas Day at 12:00 p.m. (noon) until 6:00 p.m. on New Year's Day.

B. Odd Numbered Years

Mothers shall have the child on 1) Easter Weekend from Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. to Sunday night at 6:00 p.m.; 2) Fourth of July from 6:00 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July; and 3) Christmas vacation and New Year's Day from Christmas Day at 12:00 p.m. (noon) until 6:00 p.m. on New Year's Day.

Fathers shall have the child on 1) Spring Break, if applicable and only if different than Easter Weekend; 2) Memorial Day Weekend from Friday at 6:00 p.m. to Monday Night at 6:00 p.m.; 3) Labor Day Weekend from Friday at 6:00 p.m. to Monday Night at 6:00 p.m.; 4) Thanksgiving, from Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. to Friday night at 6:00 p.m.; 5) Christmas Eve from 12:00 p.m. (noon) until Christmas Day at 12:00 p.m. (noon); and 6) Child's birthday from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

IV. EXTENDED PARENTING TIME

- A. Length. Parents shall each have fourteen (14) days of extended parenting time each year. Extended parenting time shall be exercised in blocks of not less than seven (7) days, and each parent has the right to determine the duration of the block of their own extended parenting time. In no event shall a parent utilize more than one (1) of the other parent's weekends when scheduling extended parenting time.
- B. When Exercised. With regard to any child of school age, extended parenting time shall be exercised between the last day of school and the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) day before the start of the child's new school year, unless otherwise agreed by the parties or ordered by the Court. With regard to a child who is not of school age, extended parenting time may be exercised anytime during the year, except during holiday time outlined in Section III above.
- C. Notification to Other Parent. At least sixty (60) days before the start of extended parenting time, each parent shall deliver to the other parent, in writing, the dates he / she wishes to exercise extended parenting time. This notice shall be delivered by one parent directly to the other, and shall not be sent through the child.
- D. Priority of Parents' Schedules. The Non-Residential Parent's choice of extended parenting time has priority over the Residential Parent's choice, unless the Residential Parent's vacation is an annual mandatory shut-down of the place of employment, or unless the Residential Parent is required by an employer to give more than sixty (60) days notice of intent to take a vacation and the Non-Residential Parent has no similar requirement.

- E. Contact Information. If either parent takes the child outside the county in which that parent resides, for a period of 24 hours or more, that parent must provide the other parent with the destination, times of arrival and departure, method of travel, and a telephone number where the child can be reached in case of emergency.

**V. DAYS OF SPECIAL MEANING**

- A. Mother's Day & Father's Day. Mother's Day shall always be spent with Mother and Father's Day shall always be spent with Father, regardless of which parent is entitled to the weekend. If parents cannot agree on times, the times shall be 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The child shall spend the remainder of the Mother's Day or Father's Day weekend with the parent who has regularly scheduled parenting time for that weekend.
- B. Child's Birthday. A child's birthday shall always be spent with Mother in even-numbered years and with Father in odd-numbered years. If parents cannot agree, the time shall be 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. if the child does not have school on the birthday and 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. if the child's birthday falls on a school day. Birthday parenting time takes priority over weekend, mid-week, holiday or extended parenting time.

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS PARENTING TIME ISSUES**

- A. Priority of Parenting Time Periods. In the event of any conflict between parenting time allocated to each parent under this Rule, the following order of priority shall be followed, with 1 being the highest priority and 5 being the lowest priority.
1. Days of Special Meaning
  2. Holidays
  3. Extended Parenting Time
  4. Weekends
  5. Midweek Parenting Time
- B. Cancellation of Parenting Time by Non-Residential Parent. Except in cases of emergency, the Non-Residential Parent shall give the Residential Parent 24 hours advance notice of any cancellation of parenting time. When cancellation is necessary, parents are encouraged to schedule make-up parenting time.
- C. Ending Parenting Time Early. The Non-Residential Parent shall not return the child before the end of the parenting time period, unless parents agree in advance. The

Residential Parent shall not attempt to terminate parenting time prematurely, without agreement, by arriving early to pick up the child.

- D. Transportation. In the event parents are unable to reach an agreement regarding transportation, the parent who is receiving the children shall provide transportation. "Provide transportation" means that the parent or parent's designee may provide transportation. The parent or designee must be sober, a licensed driver, have current and valid automobile insurance and have proper car seats. Any designee selected by a parent must be known and familiar to the child.
- E. Promptness. Each parent shall be prompt for pick-up of the child. Neither parent shall be more than thirty (30) minutes late to pick up a child. A Non-Residential Parent who is more than thirty (30) minutes late forfeits that particular parenting time period, unless the tardiness is for good cause, and unless the Non-Residential Parent gives notice of the tardiness and a reasonable estimated time of arrival.
- F. Make-up Parenting Time. The Non-Residential Parent shall be entitled to make-up parenting time if, due to an emergency or unforeseen circumstances, the Non-Residential Parent is not available at the scheduled time for parenting time and has given reasonable notice of that fact to the residential parent. All make-up parenting time shall be rescheduled by the Non-Residential Parent and exercised within sixty (60) days of the missed parenting time, or it is forfeited. The Residential Parent shall make the child available for all make-up parenting time.
- G. Schoolwork. A parent must provide time for any child to study and complete homework assignments, papers or other school assigned projects, even if the completion of this work interferes with a parent's plans with the child. If schoolwork is assigned by the school before the parenting time, the Residential Parent must inform the Non-Residential Parent of the school work to be done so that it may be timely completed.
- H. Contact Information. Unless the Court orders otherwise, each parent shall provide to the other parent current contact information, including telephone number, cell phone number, and an alternate number in case of an emergency. Absent an order of the Court, no parent shall put a block on a phone to prevent the other parent from calling. If either parent takes the child outside the county in which that parent resides, for a period of 24 hours or more, that parent must provide the other parent with the destination, times of arrival and departure, method of travel and a telephone number where the child can be reached in case of an emergency.
- I. Illness. If a child is too ill to leave home for parenting time, the Residential Parent shall give the Non-Residential Parent notice of that fact at the earliest available time. The Non-Residential Parent shall then be entitled to make-up parenting time with the child. The Residential Parent shall keep the Non-Residential Parent informed of any health condition of the child which necessitates medication or other treatment. The Residential Parent shall provide the Non-Residential Parent with any necessary

prescription medication or treatment instructions before the start of the parenting time.

- J. Child's Activities. The child's participation in extracurricular activities, whether school-related or otherwise, shall not be interrupted because of parenting time. The parent with whom the child is residing at the time of the activity shall transport the child to the activity, unless different arrangements are made by parents.
- K. Implementation of Revised Appendix B. Appendix B, as set forth above, constitutes the standard schedule of parenting time of this Court. The Court reserves the right, in any given case, to deviate from Appendix B if a preponderance of the evidence shows a different schedule would be in the child's best interest. This revised Appendix B is intended to be prospective in application. The effective date of this revised Appendix B is *1 January 2013*.