

**GUIDELINES ON PARENTING TIME AND COMPANIONSHIP IN
HURON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CASES**

**1. GENERAL GUIDELINES REGARDING PARENTING TIME AND
COMPANIONSHIP**

- A. Parenting Time may take place at any times and places that the parents may 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; children should not be taken into bars for an extended period of time and neither parent shall consume alcohol to excess during custody or Parenting Times. Violations shall be deemed to be cause for curtailment of Parenting Time and/or change of custody and/or subjecting the offending parent to contempt.
- C. In the event that the parents are unable to reach an agreement regarding transportation, the non-residential parent shall provide transportation at the commencement of the period and the residential parent shall provide transportation at the termination of the period.
- D. The non-residential parent shall be prompt in arriving to pick-up the children for the beginning of Parenting Time. The children, or the residential parent, have no duty to await the visiting parent for more than thirty (30) minutes after the Parenting Time time. A parent more than thirty (30) minutes late shall forfeit that Parenting Time. Exceptions shall be made if and only if the tardiness of the non-residential parent is for just cause and the residential parent receives both prompt notification and a reasonable estimated arrival time.
- E. The residential parent shall send with the children on Parenting Time, sufficient clothing and outerwear appropriate to the season to last the period of the Parenting Time. Continued violations of this requirement shall be subject to contempt.
- F. If a child is ill, the residential parent shall give twenty-four (24) hours notice, if possible. The non-residential parent shall give twenty-four (24) hours notice to cancel. The time canceled by the non-residential parent is forfeited unless re-scheduled by agreement of the parents; the time canceled by the residential parent may be made up on the option of the non-residential parent at the earliest opportunity.
- G. The non-residential parent shall have frequent and on going telephone, regular mail or e-mail contact with the child(ren). The non-residential parent shall utilize this time in a reasonable fashion.

H. The residential parent shall promptly inform the non-residential parent of any illness of the child(ren) which shall require medical attention. Elective surgery or orthodontia shall be performed only after consultation with the non-residential parent. This rule shall not be construed to limit the power of the residential parent to make the final decision with regard to elective surgery or orthodontia. Emergency surgery necessary for the preservation of life or to prevent the condition from becoming serious may be performed without consultation; provided, however, if time permits, the non-residential parent shall be consulted, and in any event, the non-residential parent shall be informed of the same as soon as possible.

2. WEEKLY SCHEDULE

The following time allocations were designed to provide a schedule best suited for a particular age of a child. When a family has children in more than one age group, the following guidelines should be observed.

- A. If the children are in two (2) age groups, the guidelines for the older group shall apply.
- B. If the children are in three (3) age groups, or more age groups, the guidelines for the middle group shall apply.

Basic Principles/Infants and Preschoolers

- 1. Particularly with very young children, the more frequently the non-residential parent sees the child(ren) the more appropriate it is to have longer periods of time with the non-residential parent.
- 2. If the non-residential has not had regular contact with the child, short periods of parenting time must precede extended periods.
- 3. With children over the age of nine (9) months and particularly with children in the preschool years, more overnight time may be appropriate subject to the circumstances of each family.

The non-residential parent shall have parenting time as follows:

A. Infants to Nine (9) months:

Two (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. Preschoolers: 9 months to 4 years

Frequent short visits per agreement or, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; the times of which may be altered to accommodate the parties' work schedules. One day every weekend alternating Saturday and Sunday from 6:00 p.m. on the preceding day to 6:00 p.m. on the day of Parenting Time.

Basic Principles/Elementary School-aged Children

1. Elementary and school-aged children can adapt to longer periods of separation from their principal caretakers than younger children can.
2. The needs of the 4 - 12 year old child with regard to school schedules, homework and extra-curricular activities must be respected.
3. Adjusting to and moving back and forth between two households increases the complexity of life in a divorce situation. It may, therefore, be necessary to simplify other aspects of the child's life, e.g. by reducing the number of outside activities.

The non-residential parent shall have parenting time as follows:

C. Elementary School-aged Children: 4 years through 12

One (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 provided that meals are provided for or accommodated. If parties cannot agree to this evening, then it shall be Wednesday; alternating weekends from Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. to Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m.

Basic Principles/Teenagers

1. Parents should respect teenagers' need to spend time with peers and in organized activities and less time with each parent especially during weekends and summer holidays.
2. Quality of time is more important than a rigid schedule. Flexibility in scheduling is necessary. When possible, it is preferable to consider the teenager's wishes as long as the parents agree.

The non-residential parent shall have parenting time as follows:

D. Teenagers: 13 through emancipation

One (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 parties cannot agree to this evening, then it shall be Wednesday; alternating weekends from Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. to Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m.

3. HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- A. Parents may wish to change by agreement a holiday at least one week in advance in order to observe a family or religious tradition.
- B. Until a child obtains age four (4), when a parent has a holiday Parenting Time that Parenting Time shall begin at 9:00 a.m. on the holiday until 6:00 p.m. on the holiday.
- C. When a child attains four (4) years of age, the following holiday Parenting Time shall apply unless parties agree otherwise:

EVEN NUMBERED YEARS

RESIDENTIAL PARENT

Memorial Day: Friday Night at 6:00 p.m. to Monday Night at 6:00 p.m.

Labor Day: Friday Night at 6:00 p.m. to Monday Night at 6:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day: Wednesday night 6:00 p.m. to Friday night 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve: Christmas Eve at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) until Christmas Day at 12:00 p.m. (Noon).

Child's Birthday: From 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (if not a school day; otherwise, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

NON-RESIDENTIAL PARENT

Easter: Thursday Night at 6:00 p.m. to Sunday Night at 6:00 p.m.

Fourth of July: 6:00 p.m. the night before the 4th until 12:00 p.m. (Noon) the day after the 4th except when the 4th falls on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday, then Parenting Time shall commence on Friday night at 6:00 p.m. and continue to 12:00 p.m. (Noon) the day after the 4th.

Christmas Vacation and New Years Day: Christmas Day at 12:00 p.m. until the 6:00 p.m. New Year's Day.

Mother's Day & Father's Day: No matter whose turn for Parenting Time, the child(ren) will be with the appropriate parent on those days from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The above schedule shall be reversed as to the residential and non-residential parent in odd numbered years.

Extended Parenting Time:

Upon the child obtaining age four (4) each parent is entitled to a two week extended Parenting Time each year. Extended Parenting Time times are to be arranged seven (7) days after the parents' vacation schedules are posted by his/her employer. Each parent shall notify the other parent in writing of the times desired for extended Parenting Time no later than thirty (30) days prior to the exercise of extended Parenting Time. Where there is a conflict between the parents as to vacation schedules, the schedule of the parent who gives written notice first to the other parent shall prevail. Extended Parenting Time may be denied by the Court if summer school is required.

In addition, the vacationing parent shall provide a general itinerary of where the child will be during the vacation.

In the event of a conflict, the following is the order of preference:

1. Holidays
2. Extended Periods
3. Weekends
4. Midweek days