

GEAUGA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
Long Distance Parenting Time Schedule  
TIMOTHY J. GRENDALL, JUDGE  
Probate / Juvenile Division

The best companionship schedule is that to which the parties may mutually agree. However, if the parties cannot agree, the Court designates the following schedule to ensure the child(ren) will have frequent and consistent contact with the parents. Upon proper application, or at the Court's discretion, the Court may deviate from the schedule in the best interest of the child(ren).

If a child indicates opposition to visiting the other parent, it shall be the responsibility of both parents to positively encourage non-residential parenting time, to appropriately resolve the situation by calmly discussing with the child(ren) the reasons for their opposition, and to work together to alleviate any opposition without confrontation or argument.

Parents who are engaged in long distance co-parenting relationships must be flexible and accommodating in order to ensure that the child(ren) maintains quality time and a close relationship with the non-residential parent. Long distance is defined as distance between the child and the non-custodial parent, which requires three hours or more of travel time each way and is within the United States. The three hours of travel time is calculated as the quickest route using driving directions on Google Maps.

Parenting time with child(ren) shall be at a minimum as follows:

**Weekends - for children 13 months and older**

The non-residential parent shall have parenting time one weekend per month with seven days advance notice. The non-residential parent may elect to exercise his/her weekend parenting time to correspond with the Court's Standard Long Distance Holiday parenting time or Days of Special Meaning schedule. If s/he does not elect to exercise his/her weekend parenting time to correspond with the Court's Standard Long Distance Holiday parenting time or Days of Special Meaning schedule, s/he forfeits parenting time on the designated holiday/day of special meaning and shall exercise weekend parenting on the third weekend of every month, unless otherwise agreed.

Parenting time shall be from Friday at the release of school or extracurricular activities until Sunday at 7:00 P.M. If parents cannot agree to the time Friday, it shall be 5:30 P.M.

**Days of Special Meaning**

Mother's Day shall be spent with mother. Father's Day shall be spent with father. The parenting time shall be from the time of release from school or extracurricular activities on Friday until Sunday at 7:00 P.M. If the parents cannot agree to the time Friday, it shall be 5:30 P.M.

Days of Special Meaning shall take precedence over the weekend parenting times.

**Summer Break**

**For children from 12 months to 24 months:** Two weeks parenting time in addition to standard weekend parenting time taken in no longer than one week segments. The non-residential parent's schedule shall have priority over the residential parent's schedule.

**For children 24 months to 3 ½ years (42 months):** Four weeks of parenting time in addition to standard weekend parenting time each summer break. Parenting time shall be exercised no more than two consecutive weeks at a time. The non-residential parent's schedule shall have priority over the residential parent's schedule.

**For children 3 ½ years (42 months) and older:** Six weeks of parenting time in addition to standard weekend parenting time each summer break. Parenting time shall be exercised no more than two consecutive weeks at a time.

During the summer parenting time, each parent is entitled to a maximum of 14 days of uninterrupted parenting time to accommodate a parent's scheduled out-of-town vacation time.

The non-residential parent's schedule shall have priority over the residential parent's schedule. The parents shall exchange summer break schedules at least 30 days prior to the last day of school or no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>, whichever is earlier.

Each parent must provide the other parent with his/her vacation destination and telephone number, where s/he can be reached, times of arrival and departure, and method of travel.

The summer vacation periods shall take precedence over the weekend parenting times.

**Holidays:** If not changed by agreement, the holiday times shall be as follows:

HOLIDAY	EVEN NUMBERED YEARS	ODD NUMBERED YEARS	TIME PERIOD
Martin Luther King Day	Father	Mother	5:30 P.M. Friday preceding to Monday at 7:00 P.M.
Presidents' Day	Mother	Father	5:30 P.M. Friday preceding to Monday at 7:00 P.M.
Easter	Father	Mother	5:30 P.M. Friday preceding to Monday at 7:00 P.M.
Memorial Day	Mother	Father	5:30 P.M. Friday preceding to Monday at 7:00 P.M.
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Father	Mother	5:30 P.M. 7/3 to 11:00 P.M. 7/4
Labor Day	Mother	Father	5:30 P.M. Friday preceding to Monday at 7:00 P.M.
Thanksgiving	Father	Mother	5:30 P.M. Wednesday preceding to Sunday at 7:00 P.M.
Christmas Eve / Christmas Day	Mother	Father	1:00 P.M. on 12/24 to 1:00 P.M. on 12/26
Spring Break	Father	Mother	School release until the Sunday prior to school resuming at 7:00 P.M.

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The parent having possession on Christmas Day shall retain possession during the second half of the winter school break and the other parent shall have possession during the first half of the winter school break.

If the child(ren) are not of school age, the extended possessory periods shall be determined from the school calendar of the district where the residential parent resides.

Holidays shall take precedence over the weekend parenting times.

### **Change of Residence**

Each parent shall keep the other parent notified of any change in address, phone number, email address or other forms of electronic communication, which the parents and/or child(ren) use to communicate. A minimum of 30 days notice shall be given to the other parent prior to any change of address

Each parent shall submit to the court a Notice of Intent to Relocate at least 30 days prior to any change of residence. Such notice shall provide the court with the anticipated new address, the effective date of the move and the last known address of the other parent.

### **Access to Records**

Each party is entitled, under the same terms and conditions under which access is provided to the residential parent, to access:

- any school, health or agency records or reports that are related to the children;
- any child day care center the child(ren) attends; and
- any student activity in which the child(ren) participate.

### **Other Provisions**

Each parent shall have the child(ren) ready for pickup at the start and conclusion of all parenting time. The child(ren) and the residential parent have no duty to wait for the other parent for more than 30 minutes after the agreed parenting time. A parent more than 30 minutes late shall forfeit that parenting time, unless the residential parent otherwise agrees.

Neither parent shall interfere with phone, mail, email or other forms of electronic communication between the child(ren) and the other parent.

Scheduled parenting time shall not be delayed or denied because the child(ren) have other scheduled activities. The parents shall discuss such activities in advance, so that the child(ren) are not unreasonably deprived of activities.

Parents are encouraged to cooperate and communicate with one another before enrolling the child(ren) in extracurricular activities. Unless otherwise agreed, the parent enrolling the child in the activity shall bear the cost of the activity.

This is the minimum order of parenting time. The non-residential parent is entitled to any other parenting time as the parties may agree.

The Court recognizes that because of the distances involved and the expense of travel that a non-residential parent may not be able to exercise all of the scheduled parenting time. The residential parent should be made aware of the inability to exercise parenting time.