

**Court of Common Pleas
Juvenile Division
Geauga County, Ohio
Standard Visitation Order**

Modified **Unmodified**
(Modifications in Bold)

- (1) Liberal visitation between non-residential parents and their children is encouraged. It is hoped that the parties can voluntarily arrive at mutually agreeable schedules. In the event they cannot agree, and unless otherwise ordered, visitation shall be had pursuant to these guidelines. The standard schedule is set forth in regular type; *optional alternatives are set forth in italics.*
- (2) Visitation between children and non-residential parents shall not be less than:
- a. Regular Parenting Time
- i. Alternating weekends beginning Friday at 6:00 P.M. and ending Sunday at 6:00 P.M. This alternating weekend schedule shall not change, even if interrupted or superceded by holiday, birthday, vacation, make-up, or other parenting time.
- ii. Wednesday of each week from 5:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.
- b. Holiday Parenting Time
- i. Holidays for parenting time are as follows:
- 1 Easter
2 Memorial Day
3 Fourth of July
4 Labor Day
5 Thanksgiving
- ii. In odd-numbered years, the mother shall

have the children on the odd-numbered holidays and the father shall have the children on the even-numbered holidays. In the even-numbered years, the father shall have the odd-numbered holidays and the mother the even-numbered holidays.

- iii. The hours for parenting time on holidays shall be from 9:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. unless otherwise provided by this rule or agreed upon by the parties.
- iv. Fourth of July parenting time shall extend to 11:00 P.M. on July 4.
- v. If holiday parenting time of the non-residential parent falls on a day immediately preceding or following that parent's regular parenting time, then the parenting time will be continuous.
- vi. A holiday that falls on a weekend shall be spent with the parent who is designated to have the children for that holiday, and the other parent shall have the children for the rest of the weekend. The time does not have to be made up.

c. Vacation Parenting Time

- i. Each parent shall have possession twenty-one (21) consecutive days each summer. The parties shall arrange such parenting time between them before May 1 each year. First choice goes to the non-residential parent. Unless otherwise agreed, vacations commence on Sunday at 6:00 P.M. The summer parenting time shall be consecutive weeks unless otherwise agreed.
- ii. Winter Break. Winter break shall be divided evenly between the parties, with

no specific provisions for religious holidays and New Year. The mother shall have the children the first half of the winter vacation in odd-numbered years, and the father shall have the children the second half of the winter vacation. In even-numbered years, the mother shall have the children in the second half, and the father the first half of the winter vacation. Winter break begins at 5:30 P.M. on the last day of school before the break and ends at 6:00 P.M. the day before school recommences.

- iii. Spring Break. The parent having possession on Easter Sunday shall have possession during the half of the spring vacation that includes Easter Sunday, or the second half of the spring vacation if the spring vacation period does not include Easter Sunday; the other parent shall have possession during the other half of the spring vacation. Spring Break begins at 5:30 P.M. on the last day of school before the break, and ends at 6:00 P.M. on the day before school recommences.
- iv. Each parent must provide the other parent with destination, times of arrival and departure, method of travel, and a telephone number where the parent may be reached, if the vacation will be outside the traveling parent's community.
- v. Summer school necessary for the child to pass to the next grade must be attended. Summer vacation parenting time may be scheduled during a mandatory summer school period, but the parent exercising parenting time must ensure that the child attends all classes.
- vi. If the children are not registered for school, for example if they are home schooled, or

not of school age, summer, winter, and spring vacations will be determined based on the public school district in which the primary residential parent resides.

d. Special Parenting Time

- i. Mother's Day shall be spent with the mother from 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
- ii. Father's Day shall be spent with the father from 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
- iii. Children's birthdays shall be celebrated in the home of the residential parent unless the birthday falls on the other parent's scheduled parenting time day. *Optional alternative: The children's birthdays shall be spent with the mother in even-numbered calendar years, and with the father in odd-numbered years. Parenting time shall be from 5:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. if the birthday is on a school day, and from 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. if the birthday is not on a school day. Siblings shall be included in the birthday parenting time.*

(3) Telephone privileges. The non-residential parent shall have telephone privileges with the children three times per week. In addition, a parent may call a child once during a scheduled parenting time period is missed. The residential parent has the right to reasonable calls when the child is on vacation with the other parent. Telephone calls should be made during the normal hours the child is awake, and if the child is unavailable, each parent shall take the responsibility of seeing that the child timely returns the call. The child should be permitted to call the other parent if the child so requests. Telephone calls shall be reasonable in duration and not disruptive to the parenting time of the parent in possession.

(4) General Rules

- a. Neither parent shall be more than thirty (30)

minutes late picking up the children. If the non-residential parent is more than thirty (30) minutes late, parenting time is forfeited and shall not be made up. The parent with possession of the children shall make sure that the children are ready to be picked up at all scheduled times.

- b. Holiday parenting time and special parenting time shall take precedence over all other parenting time.
- c. Vacation parenting time shall take precedence over regular parenting time.
- d. Neither parent shall permanently remove a child from the jurisdiction of the Court without first filing a Notice of Intent to Relocate and a Motion to Modify Parenting Time. Said motions shall be filed as soon as possible after the custodial parent learns of the move. If both parents have agreed to the move, the motion shall so indicate.
- e. Cancellation. The non-residential parent shall give twenty-four (24) hour advance notice if the parent intends to cancel parenting time if possible. If not possible, then notification shall be as soon as possible under the circumstances. This time is forfeited and shall not be made up.
- f. Transportation. The parent who is beginning his or her possessory period shall pick up the children. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court or agreed by the parties, drop-off and pick-up shall be at the parents' respective homes.

If either parent is unavailable for the pick-up or delivery of the children, he or she must use an adult well known to the children and/or the other parent for this purpose. All child restraint laws, including those pertaining to car seats, must be complied with by any person driving the children. No person transporting the children may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Only licensed drivers may transport the children.

- g. Illness. If a child is ill, the residential parent should give twenty-four (24) hour notice, if possible, to the other parent. If any parenting time, including weekend, holiday, birthday or vacation, is missed due to illness, then any missed parenting time shall commence the first weekend of the other parent's time, and shall continue during the other parent's weekends until made up in full, including partial weekends if necessary.

If a parent exercises parenting time when a child is ill, the residential parent shall provide the other parent with any prescription medication and instructions for care of the child.

- h. Address and telephone numbers. Each parent must, unless the Court orders otherwise, keep the other parent informed of his or her current address and telephone number, and an alternate telephone number in the event of an emergency.
- i. Children's Activities. Scheduled parenting time shall not be delayed or denied because a child has other scheduled activities (with friends, work, lessons, sports, etc.). The parent shall discuss such activities in advance, including time, dates and transportation needs, so that the child is not unreasonably deprived of activities. The parent who has the child during the time of the scheduled activity is responsible for transportation, attendance, and other arrangements. Neither parent shall schedule activities that interfere with the other parent's time without that parent's consent. The parent arranging the child's participation in the activity should provide all relevant information, including schedules, contact information, etc., to the other parent as soon as possible. Both parents are encouraged to attend all of the child's activities.
- j. School work. Parents shall provide time for children to study and complete homework assignments, even if the completion of work

interferes with the parent's plans for the children. The residential parent is responsible for providing the other parent all school assignments and books that are necessary for the children to complete their assignments when in the possession of the non-residential parent.

- k. Any clothing provided by a parent for the other parent's possessory time must be returned upon exchange of possession of the children. If the clothing must be laundered, it shall be laundered and returned to the other parent at the following visit.