

Wexford/Missaukee Friend of the Court PARENTING TIME POLICY

Effective
10/01/12
for orders
10/01/12
and later

REASONABLE PARENTING TIME

Every family is unique and that is why we prefer that parents devise their own parenting time schedule. Special circumstances such as the absence of an established parenting relationship, substance abuse, child neglect/abuse, very young children, or parents who live a considerable distance from one another, require a parenting time schedule that differs from the reasonable parenting time schedule. However, when an order provides for "Reasonable Parenting Time", the following Friend of the Court policy shall apply:

CHILDREN 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER (Special Schedules for Under 3 Years)

Weekends

Alternating weekends 6 pm Friday to 6 pm Sunday. Weekends are alternated during the entire year except for holidays and school breaks.

Weekdays

One week night per week (Wednesday if not otherwise agreed) from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The parent exercising parenting time provides transportation to and from this parenting time.

Holidays/Special Days

HOLIDAY	START TIME	END TIME	ODD YEARS	EVEN YEARS
President's Day 3 rd Monday of February	6 pm day school recesses	6 pm Monday	Father	Mother
Easter	6 pm day school recesses	6 pm Sunday	Mother	Father
Memorial Day	6 pm Friday	6 pm Monday	Father	Mother
4 th of July	6 pm July 3 rd	6 pm July 5 th	Mother	Father
Thanksgiving	6 pm day school recesses	5 pm Sunday	Father	Mother
Mother's Day	6 pm Friday	6 pm Sunday	Mother	Mother
Father's Day	6 pm Friday	6 pm Sunday	Father	Father
Child's Birthday	On own time	On own time	On own time	On own time

School Breaks

BREAK	START TIME	END TIME	ODD YEARS	EVEN YEARS
Spring Break	6 pm day school recesses	6 pm day before school resumes	Mother	Father
Christmas First Segment	6 pm day school recesses	9 am Christmas Day	Mother	Father
Christmas Second Segment	9 am Christmas Day	Noon day before school resumes	Father	Mother
Summer age 5 & older – Less than 100 miles apart Alternating weeks	First Sunday after school recesses	Last Sunday before school resumes	Mother first week	Father first week
Summer age 5 & older – More than 100 miles apart Alternating 2 weeks	First Sunday after school recesses	Last Sunday before school resumes	Mother first 2 weeks	Father first 2 weeks
Summer under age 5	Continue	Regular	Schedule	

Telephone Contact With Children

Unless prohibited by court order, each parent is entitled to have reasonable access at reasonable times for reasonable duration when the child/ren is with the other parent. Communication may consist of: In-person; phone; e-mail; web cam; texting; letters/cards; any other reasonable form.

Transportation

For all but week day parenting time, parents share transportation responsibilities equally with each parent picking up the child/ren at the start of his/her parenting time. The parent exercising regular week day parenting time provides transportation to and from the parenting time. A licensed driver that is familiar to the child/ren may provide transportation. A 20-minute grace period is allowed which is intended for emergency delays only. A child is not expected to be kept waiting for a parent past the 20-minute period unless proper notification of a legitimate reason for the delay has been given. Exchanges shall occur at each parent's residence.

Other Parenting Time

Other parenting time is allowed as the parents agree in advance. However, the Friend of the Court will only enforce the Reasonable Parenting Time schedule above or another schedule as ordered by the court.

Regular Parenting Time Suspended

Regular weekend and weekday parenting time is suspended for Holidays, special days, and school breaks and shall not be made up. This may result in one parent having consecutive weekends.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHILDREN THREE YEARS OF AGE AND YOUNGER

Child's Age	No/Limited contact established	Typical Situations	Exceptional Co-parenting
0-6 months	1 - 3 contacts of 1 - 4 hours	1 - 2 contacts 1 - 4 hours + one 8 hour no overnights	Up to daily contact + overnights
7-18 months	1 - 3 contacts of 1 - 4 hours	1 - 2 contacts Up to 8 hours no overnights	Up to daily contact + overnights
19-36 months	1 - 3 contacts of 1 - 8 hours	1- 2 contacts of 3 hours + one biweekly overnight	Up to daily contact + overnights

Determination of which plan is ordered depends on parents' history of parenting and best interest custody factors

GENERAL PARENTING TIME GUIDELINES

Custodial Parent Expectations

Have child/ren prepared prior to start of parenting time

Provide clothing for the child/ren for parenting time

Each provide own clothing if equal custody

Send prescription medication with child/ren

Notify co-parent if you believe child is too ill to participate in parenting time. If both parents do not agree to cancel parenting time, parenting time must occur.

Denying parenting time may result in make-up parenting time or contempt proceedings

Non-Custodial Parent Expectations

Return all clothing sent with the child/ren

Encouraged, but cannot be forced, to take parenting time

If parenting time is denied, advise Friend of the Court, in writing, within 56 days

MISCELLANEOUS

To Calendar Your Schedule

Mark all alternating weekends on a calendar for the entire year. If a holiday falls on a weekend, the holiday takes precedence. Following the holiday, return to the alternating weekend schedule. The alternating weekend schedule never changes, even if interrupted by a holiday or extended time period.

Agreements Outside of Order

Co-parents are encouraged to cooperate with each other and to be flexible. Agreed-upon deviations from the court's order should be in writing and signed by both parties but will not be enforced by the Friend of the Court.

Supervised Parenting Time

Under certain extraordinary circumstances, supervised parenting time may be ordered. Depending on what is ordered, supervision may be provided by a relative, friend or court-appointed supervisor paid by the parties.

Changing Your Schedule

If you believe a change in your custody/parenting time schedule is needed, you may file a Motion with the Friend of the Court to request a change.

School

Each parent is responsible for obtaining their own school information.

Homework must be completed as assigned, regardless of which parent the child is with.

Extracurricular Activities

Parents are encouraged to cooperate with their children's extracurricular activities. If both parties agree to participation in an extracurricular activity, both are responsible for the cost and ensuring a child's attendance. However, if co-parents do not agree, the other parent is not responsible for the cost or ensuring the child's attendance.

Number of Overnights Per Year

The basic Reasonable Parenting Time schedule results in 100 overnights with the non-custodial parent and 265 overnights per year with the custodial parent for cases with children 5 years of age and older.