

WEXFORD/MISSAUKEE COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT
POLICY ON PARENTING TIME

(For orders that refer to the Parenting Time Policy prior to 10/1/12)

I. Orders For Reasonable Parenting Time

When parents are unable to decide upon a parenting time schedule of their own, the Friend of the Court has adopted a definition of reasonable parenting time which will be applied.

Reasonable parenting time is as follows:

1. Alternating weekends, commencing at 6:00 p.m. Friday until 6:00 p.m. Sunday (48 hours). Weekends are alternated during the entire year. The only exceptions are School Christmas and Spring vacations. (See paragraphs #5 and #6).
2. Alternate the following holidays, Easter, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve Day, and Christmas Day.
3. Mother's Day with the Mother, Father's Day with the Father.
4. Summer non-school months, 2 - 4 weeks extended parenting time. If the parents can not agree on the number of weeks, they may file a motion and request that a specific number of weeks be ordered by the court. Unless your court order states otherwise, weekends continue to be alternated during the summer non-school months. The dates requested for summer parenting time cannot include the other parent's weekend without the other parent's agreement.
5. School Christmas vacation is split evenly. The parties will alternate the first and second half of the vacation. Any weekends within the Christmas vacation are part of the days to be split and are not alternated. Vacation is defined as the day school lets out until the day before school resumes.*
6. Alternate the school spring vacation. Any weekends within the Spring vacation are not alternated. Vacation is defined as the day school lets out until the day before school resumes.*

*In regards to the alternate weekends and the Christmas and Spring vacations, the Friend of the Court enforces that the parent who does not receive the weekend before the vacation will have the children for the weekend after school resumes and then begin alternating the weekends again. In the event that the parties are unable to agree upon the exchange times, those times will be consistent with weekend exchange times.

II. General Policy on Parenting Time

These policies pertain to all orders for parenting time.

Holiday parenting time takes priority over all other parenting time. Holiday hours are 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

The dates for summer parenting time are the non-custodial parent's choice provided he/she chooses the dates and gives them to the custodial parent, in writing, previous to May 1.

The Friend of the Court recognizes one half-hour leeway for pick up and return of the child/children.

The non-custodial parent may be encouraged but not forced to take his/her parenting time; however the custodial parent cannot deny his/her parenting time.

The custodial parent is expected to have the child/children prepared for the parenting time with the non-custodial parent. It is also expected that the custodial parent will provide adequate clothing for the duration of each stay with the non-custodial parent and the non-custodial parent will return the same clothing at the completion of their parenting time.

Unless the court orders otherwise, telephone usage is left to agreement of the parties.

Effective July 1, 2005 unless the court orders otherwise, transportation for parenting time shall be shared equally by the parties. The person receiving the child(ren) shall be responsible for the transportation. If a parent is unable to pick up or return the children for their parenting time, a responsible adult, known to both parents, may transport the children for them.

If the child/children is/are sick, advance notice should be given to the non-custodial parent. The non-custodial parent should be advised of the specific nature of the illness, and if desired, be given the opportunity to see the child/children.

There are only three (3) valid reasons for denying parenting time:

1. The non-custodial parent was drunk or used illegal drugs.
2. The non-custodial parent failed to arrive within one half hour of the time specified for pick-up.
3. The non-custodial parent was in clear violation of an important part of the parenting time order. (If you have questions, you may contact the Friend of the Court).

Note: Denying parenting time for other reasons can result in make up parenting time or contempt of court proceedings.

If denial of parenting time occurs, the non-custodial parent should immediately advise the Friend of the Court in writing (written complaints received by the Friend of the Court more than 56 days after the denial occurred cannot be addressed). Within 14 days the Friend of the Court will send an inquiry to the custodial parent seeking information as to whether or not parenting time was in fact denied.

Failure by the custodial parent to respond in writing to the inquiry within 21 days shall be taken as agreement that parenting time was wrongfully denied and make up parenting time will be granted or other appropriate action will be taken.

Should the custodial parent make a timely reply with an explanation as to why he/she feels parenting time was not denied, the Friend of the Court will determine what appropriate action will be taken.