

Wexford/Missaukee Friend of the Court PARENTING TIME POLICY

Effective
7/01/21
for orders
7/01/21
and later

REASONABLE PARENTING TIME

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

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 weeknight 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
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
Labor Day	6 pm day school recesses	6 pm Monday	Father	Mother
Thanksgiving	6 pm day school recesses	6 pm Sunday	Mother	Father
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	Father	Mother
Christmas Second Segment	9 am Christmas Day	Noon day before school resumes	Mother	Father
Summer – Less than 100 miles apart Alternating weeks	First Sunday after school recesses	Last Sunday before school resumes	Mother first week	Father first week
Summer – 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

Telephone Contact With Children

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

Transportation

For all but weekday 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 weekday parenting time provides transportation to and from the parenting time. If necessary, a licensed driver that is familiar to the child/ren may also provide transportation; it is suggested that the licensed driver is one who is familiar to the other parent, as well. 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 notice of a valid reason for the delay has been given. Exchanges shall occur at each parent's residence.

Vacations

Each parent is able to take their child/ren on vacation during their parenting time, as long as it does not interfere with the other parents' time. It is recommended that as a courtesy, contact information is provided to the other parent ahead of time.

Other Parenting Time

If the parents agree ahead of time, other parenting time is allowed. 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.

Holidays for Children Younger Than School Age

If the child/ren are not yet old enough to enroll in school, Holidays/Special Days will follow the schedule of the local school district. These schedules can be found at the school district's website.

Moving Over 100 Miles or Out of State

Parents who plan on moving more than 100 miles need to seek the consent of the other parent first. If no consent is received, or if a parent plans on moving out of state, permission from the Court is needed before the move by filing a Motion.

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 over the normal parenting time schedule. After the holiday, return to the alternating weekend schedule.

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.

Daycare Providers

Each parent is able to choose their own daycare providers for their own parenting time, unless the proposed daycare provider is prohibited by a Court order.

Extracurricular Activities and Appointments

Parents are encouraged to cooperate with their children's extracurricular activities. Parents are also encouraged to inform each other about their children's appointments. 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.