

# Wexford/Missaukee Friend of the Court

## PARENTING TIME POLICY

Effective  
1/01/24  
for orders  
1/01/24  
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 <sup>th</sup> of July	6 pm July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6 pm July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Mother	Father
Labor Day	6 pm day school recesses	6 pm Monday	Father	Mother
Halloween	When school recesses or 4 pm October 31 <sup>st</sup>	8 pm October 31 <sup>st</sup>	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	Noon Christmas Day	Father	Mother
Christmas Second Segment	Noon Christmas Day	Noon day before school resumes	Mother	Father
Summer – Less than 100 miles apart Alternating weeks	6 pm first Sunday after school recesses	6 pm last Sunday before school resumes	Mother first week	Father first week
Summer – More than 100 miles apart Alternating 2 weeks	6 pm first Sunday after school recesses	6 pm 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 or children is with the other parent. This communication may be: In-person; phone; e-mail; web cam; texting; letters/cards; any other reasonable form.

### **Transportation**

Parents share transportation responsibilities equally with each parent picking up the child or children at the start of his/her parenting time. If necessary, a licensed driver over the age of 18 who is familiar to the child or children 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 can take their child or children 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 schedule that has been 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 or children are not yet old enough to enroll in school, Holidays/Special Days will follow the schedule of the local school district in which the child or children reside. 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 agreement of the other parent first. If the parents agree, they can reach out to the Friend of the Court and schedule an appointment to produce a new order. If the parents do not agree, or if a parent plans on moving out of state, permission from the Court is needed before the move by filing a Motion.

<h2><b>GENERAL PARENTING TIME GUIDELINES</b></h2>
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### **Custodial Parent Expectations**

Have the child or children prepared before the start of parenting time

Provide enough clothing for the child or children for parenting time

Each provides their own clothing if there is equal custody

Send prescription medication with child or children

Notify other 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 or children

Encouraged, but cannot be forced, to take parenting time

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

<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>
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### **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**

Parents are encouraged to cooperate with each other and to be flexible. Agreements made outside of the court order can be put into writing and signed by both parents 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 can 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 parents agree to participation in an extracurricular activity, both are responsible for the cost and ensuring a child's attendance. However, if both 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.