

VISITATION GUIDELINES LOGAN COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES

The policy of the following time allocations is to provide a schedule which is best suited for the particular age of the child(ren). When a family has children in more than one age group, the parents should adapt the schedule to fit the needs of each child.

When children are in different age groups, the following guidelines should be observed if no harm would occur to the children. A). If the children are in two age groups, the guidelines for the older group should apply. B). If the children are in three or more age groups, the guidelines for the middle age group should apply.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Basic Principles for Infants and Pre-schoolers

- i. Particularly with very young children, the more frequently the non-residential parent sees the child(ren), the more appropriate it is to have longer periods of time with the non-residential parent.
- ii. If the non-residential parent has not had regular contact with the child, short periods of parenting time must precede extended periods.
- iii. With children over the age of seven months, and particularly with children in the pre-school years, more overnight time may be appropriate subject to the temperament of the child and the circumstances of each family.

The **non-residential parent** shall have parenting time as follows:

A. Infants to 7 months:

0-3 Months – Two hours three times weekly. The times will be set to accommodate both parents' work schedules. All visits shall take place in the home of the residential parent.

3-7 Months – Three hours three times weekly. The times will be set to accommodate both parents' work schedules. All visits will take place in the home of the non-residential parent and the parents shall ensure that visitation times for the non-residential parent shall remain the same.

NOTE- For Infants from birth to 7 months of age: The Holiday and days of special meaning schedule will not take effect until after the age of 7 months.

B. Preschoolers:

Frequent short visits per agreement, or, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., the times of which may be altered to accommodate the parents' work schedules. One day every weekend either from Friday to Saturday, from Saturday to Sunday, or from Sunday to Monday. All times for the overnight weekend visits shall begin and end at 6:00 p.m.

Basic principles for Elementary School-Aged Children

- i. Elementary and school-aged children can adapt to longer periods of separation from their principal care-takers than younger children can.
- ii. The needs of the 5-11 year old child, with regard to school schedules, homework and extra-curricular activities, must be respected.
- iii. Adjusting to and moving back and forth between two households increases the complexity of life for a child in a divorce situation. It may, therefore, be necessary to simplify other aspects of the child's life, e.g. by reducing the number of outside activities.

The **non-residential parent** shall have parenting time as follows:

C. Elementary school-aged children:

First Shift Midweek visits - One time per week from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and the evening meal must be provided for or accommodated.

First Shift Weekend visits - Alternating weekends from Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. to Monday morning, if there is school, or 6:00 p.m. Monday if no school.

Second Shift schedule - Alternating weekends from Saturday at 12 noon until Monday morning, if there is school, or 12 noon if no school.

Basic principles for Teen-aged Children

- i. Parents should respect the need of teenagers to spend time with peers and in organized activities and less time with each parent, especially during weekends and summer break.
- ii. Quality time is more important than a rigid schedule. Flexibility in scheduling is necessary. When possible, it is preferable to consider the teenager’s wishes as long as the parents agree.

The **non-residential parent** shall have parenting time as follows:

<p>D. Teenagers:</p> <p>First Shift Midweek visits - One evening per week from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and the evening meal must be provided for or accommodated.</p> <p>First Shift Weekend visits – Alternating weekends from Friday at 6:00 p.m. to Monday morning, if there is school, or until Monday at 6:00p.m. , if no school.</p> <p>Second Shift Schedule – Alternating weekends from Saturday at 12 noon until Monday morning, if there is school, or until 12 noon Monday if no school.</p>
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ALTERNATIVE VISITATION SCHEDULE WHEN EITHER PARENT RESIDES OUT OF THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT

When either parent resides out of the jurisdiction of the Logan County Common Pleas Court, (100 miles or more one way), so as to make it impractical to adhere to the above visitation schedule, the parents shall have visitation as follows:

- A. Summer visitation shall be for a period not to exceed six (6) weeks to be arranged on or before May 31.
- B. An additional ten (10) days of visitation to be arranged by the residential and non-residential parent when transportation is available. It is recommended that the visitation be during the children’s school holidays and, if possible, during the Christmas and New Year holidays. Additionally, the non-residential parent shall have the following visitation:

1. Every **odd numbered year** from December 26 through January 1.
 2. Every **even numbered year** from the day after school ends through January and, if the child is not attending school, from December 18 through January 1.
 3. Every Spring break from school.
 4. Holidays per the standard rule unless otherwise addressed.
 5. Anytime that the non-residential parent is in the vicinity of the residential parent, the non-residential parent may exercise up to 48 hours of visitation provided there has been 72 hours' notice to the residential parent. This visitation shall not take place outside the child's county of residence.
- C. All transportation arrangements for visitation where either parent lives outside the jurisdiction of the Court shall be divided with the non-residential parent paying the costs of transportation to begin the visitation and the residential parent paying the cost of transportation for the return of the children at the end of visitation.

PHASE-IN VISITATION

If the parties/parents and child have never lived as a family unit, or have not lived as a family unit for over one year, the visitation with the non-residential parent shall be phased in using the following schedule. After completion of the final phase of the phase-in visitation schedule, visitation shall be extended to the standard visitation schedule.

1. **First phase:** Unless the parties agree otherwise, or subject to a modifying order, first phase introductory visitation shall be as follows:
 - a. Once a week for three (3) hours away from the residential parent's home at a neutral site, such as at the home of a suitable relative of the non-residential parent.
 - b. The non-residential relative must agree to the supervision.
 - c. The child will not be removed from the agreed upon visitation site during the visitation period.
 - d. No alcoholic beverages and/or substances of abuse shall be used during or in the eight (8) hours immediately prior to any visitation.
 - e. The visit shall take place on the day of the residential parent's choice and time, unless this conflicts with the non-residential parent's work schedule. In such case, if the residential parent cannot choose another non-conflicting day and time, then the non-residential parent may choose the day and time.

- f. Introductory visitation shall continue for four (4) weeks. If the non-residential parent misses any visitation, the introductory period will continue beyond four (4) weeks until three (3) consecutive weeks have occurred.
2. **Second phase:** Visitation shall be enhanced to one day per week for six (6) hours for an additional four (4) weeks. During this second phase, visitation may take place away from the relative's home or other facility. All other guidelines under the first introductory phase shall remain in effect.
3. **Third phase:** One overnight visitation with the child every other week. This shall occur for six (6) weeks. The visit shall take place on the day of the residential parent's choice and time, unless this conflicts with the non-residential parent's work schedule. In such case, if the residential parent cannot choose another non-conflicting day and time, then the non-residential parent may choose the day and time. Visitation shall commence at 10:00 a.m. and terminate the following day at 10:00 a.m.
4. After successful completion of the third phase, the parties shall exercise visitation in accordance with the standard order.

GRANDPARENT OR OTHER THIRD PARTY VISITATION

If allowed by law, and after proper joinder, motion or complaint, the parties/parents cannot agree otherwise, the following schedule of non-parental visitation shall apply:

1. One weekend per month from Saturday at 10:00 a.m. to Sunday at 6:00 p.m.
2. One week per summer, with written notification by the first of May, to the residential parent as to when the non-parental party wishes to exercise said visitation.
3. Non-parental visitation shall not interfere with a non-residential parent's visitation or with any holiday visitation of either parent.

HOLIDAYS, DAYS OF SPECIAL MEANING AND EXTENDED TIME SCHEDULE

- A. Parents may wish to change, by agreement, a holiday at least one (1) week in advance, in order to observe a family or religious tradition. If not changed by agreement, holiday times, where relevant, shall be as follows:

This schedule applies to **EVEN NUMBERED YEARS**.

This schedule will be **REVERSED** as to the residential and non-residential parent in **ODD NUMBERED YEARS**.

RESIDENTIAL PARENT – EVEN NUMBERED YEARS

Memorial Day	Friday night at 6:00 p.m. to Monday night at p.m.
Labor Day	Friday night at 6:00 p.m. to Monday night at p.m.
Christmas	Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m. until Christmas Day at 2:00 p.m.
Thanksgiving	Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. to Sunday night at 6:00 p.m.
Child's Birthday	From 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. if no school. If a school day, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

NON-RESIDENTIAL PARENT – EVEN NUMBERED YEARS

Easter	Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. to Sunday night at 6:00 p.m.
July 4 th	The night before the 4 th at 6:00 p.m. until the morning after the 4 th except when the 4 th falls on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday when visitation shall commence Friday night and continue to the end of the weekend or the holiday, whichever is later.
Christmas Vacation and New Year's Day	Christmas Day at 2:00 p.m. until the end of the New Year holiday, (January 1 st)
Trick or Treat (Beggar's Night)	5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

MOTHER'S DAY AND FATHER'S DAY

No matter whose turn it is for visitation, the child(ren) will be with the appropriate parent on Mother's day and Father's day from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

- B. When a child reaches the age of two, the non-residential parent shall be entitled to four weeks of additional time each year. After the age of five, two weeks may be taken consecutively. This time may be exercised during the summer, the child(ren)'s spring break from school, (every other year), or at any other appropriate time during the year. For children ages two to five, the four weeks of extended time may be taken in one week increments. **There will not be any extended periods of time for children under the age of two.**
- C. The residential parent shall be entitled to two weeks of consecutive time each year.
- D. Extended periods of time are to be arranged within seven (7) days from the time the parents' vacation schedules are posted by their employers. Each parent shall notify the other parent, in writing, of the times desired for these extended periods of time no later than 30 days prior to the exercise of the extended period of time. When there is a conflict between the parents as to vacation schedules, the schedule of the parent who first gives written notice to the other parent shall prevail.
- E. In the event of a conflict, the following is the order of precedence:
1. Holidays
 2. Extended periods of time
 3. Weekends
 4. Mid-week days

GENERAL GUIDELINES REGARDING VISITATION

- A. Visitation does not include picking up the children and leaving them with someone else while the visiting parent pursues their own recreation which excludes the children. Children should not be taken into bars for an extended period of time, and the visiting parent shall never consume alcohol, to excess, during visitations. Violations shall be deemed to be cause for curtailment of visitation and/or subject the non-residential parent to contempt.
- B. **Transportation:** In the event that the parents are unable to reach an agreement regarding transportation, the non-residential parent shall provide transportation at the

commencement of the period of visitation and the residential parent shall provide transportation at the termination of the period of visitation, except mid-week visitation, when the non-residential parent shall transport both ways.

- C. The non-residential parent shall be prompt in arriving to pick up the children for the beginning of visitation. The children and the residential parent have no duty to await the visiting parent for more than thirty (30) minutes after the time visitation is to commence. A parent who is more than thirty minutes late for visitation shall forfeit that visitation. Exceptions shall be if, and only if, the tardiness of the non-residential parent is for just cause and the residential parent receives both prompt notification and a reasonable estimated time of arrival.
- D. The residential parent shall send with the children on visitation sufficient clothing and outerwear appropriate to the season to last the duration of the visitation time. (For a weekend visitation this shall consist of a minimum of two (2) extra sets of play clothes and one (1) dress outfit in addition to the clothes the children are wearing at the start of the visitation). In the case of infants, the residential parent shall send with the child, sufficient bottles, formula and diapers to a last the duration of the visitation period. Violations of this requirement shall be deemed sufficient cause for a modification of parental rights and responsibilities.
- E. If a child is ill, the residential parent shall give the non-residential parent twenty-four (24) hours' notice, if possible. The nonresidential parent shall give twenty-four (24) hours' notice to cancel visitation. The time cancelled by the non-residential parent is forfeited. The time cancelled by the residential parent may be made up on the option of the non-residential parent at the earliest opportunity.
- F. The non-residential parent shall have frequent and on-going telephone, regular mail or e-mail contact with the child(ren). The non-residential parent shall utilize this time in a reasonable fashion. The residential parent shall encourage free communications between he children and the non-residential parent and shall not do anything to impede or restrict communications by phone or mail between the children and the non-residential parent whether initiated by the children or the non-residential parent. The mail between the children and parent shall be strictly confidential between them and that parent, and shall not be opened or read by the other parent. There shall not be any communication between the children and the non-residential parent after 9:00 p.m.
- G. The residential parent shall promptly inform the non-residential parent of any illness of the children which shall require medical attention. Elective surgery or orthodontia shall be performed only after consultation with the non-residential parent. This rule shall not be

construed to limit the power of the residential parent to make the final decision with regard to elective surgery or orthodontia. Emergency surgery necessary for the preservation of life or to prevent the condition from becoming serious shall be performed without consultation, provided, however, if time permits, the non-residential parent shall be consulted. In any event, the non-residential parent shall be informed of the same as soon as possible.

- H. The residential parent shall take the necessary action with the school authorities of the schools in which the children are enrolled to list the non-residential parent as a parent of the children, to authorize the school to release to the non-residential parent any and all information concerning the children and to insure that the non-residential parent receives copies of any notices regarding the children. The children shall not be used to transmit information to the other parent.
- I. The residential parent shall promptly transmit to the non-residential parent any information received concerning parent-teacher conferences, school club meetings, school programs, athletic schedules and any other school activities in which the children may be engaged or involved.
- J. The residential parent shall take the necessary action with medical authorities to ensure that the non-residential parent has access to medical information concerning the children and/or the authority to obtain emergency medical treatment for the children.
- K. Both parents shall refrain from criticizing the other in the presence of the children and shall refrain from requiring the children to choose sides as between the parents.
- L. **These are guidelines concerning parental rights and responsibilities and they will be changed or modified by the Court if it is shown that there is a need for such change. The Court also recognizes that it is impossible to devise a set of rules that will apply in each and every case and, therefore, encourages the parties to attempt to work out their differences on their own, keeping in mind the best interests of the children.**