

PARENTING TIME PRACTICE	OTTAWA COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT Policy/Procedures	No. 3.001a August 2000 Revised December 2008 Revised April 2013 Revised: November 2013
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Frequent, consistent access to both parents is essential to ensure the successful adjustment of children to their parents' divorce. Ideally, parents develop their own parenting time schedules which take into consideration the unique circumstances of their family and which may be changed from time to time. In such cases, the Court often orders "reasonable visitation as the Parties shall mutually agree upon," or similar language. The following schedules are designed for those situations when parents cannot reach an agreement. Additionally, except where otherwise stated, these schedules are based upon the assumption that the parents were married or lived together with the child(ren) for an extended period of time and that there is a normal degree of familiarity between the non-custodial parent and the child(ren). When this is not the case, a parenting time schedule will have to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

***Following each parenting time section, in parentheses, is an identified number of overnights used in the calculation of child support under the 2013 Michigan Child Support Formula. This number does not change the meaning of the written text in each section of the policy. (for example, IV. Easter Weekend extends from Friday until Sunday which allows for overnight parenting time on Friday and Saturday. For child support calculation purposes, however, this weekend is counted as "(0 overnights)" because this weekend is credited elsewhere in the policy.**

Parenting Time Schedule for Children Under Age Four (zero overnights)

Special considerations must be taken when developing parenting time schedules for children up to age four. One must consider the nature of the bond between the non-custodial parent and the children as well as the degree of cooperation that exists between the two parents concerning parenting time issues. One should consider these factors in determining which of the following situations a specific child falls into:

- ***Transitional Situations:*** those situations in which the child and/or parents are not prepared to handle typical shared parenting time schedules. Parents move toward typical or exceptional situations as they build upon their teamwork and gain familiarity between parent and child.
- ***Typical Situations:*** typical readiness of most parents and children.
- ***Exceptional Situations:*** situations in which the parent-child relationship is so strong that parenting time can exceed the typical guidelines. For instance where there was an intact family/marriage with the non-custodial parent in the role of caregiver.

Children Age 0 to 6 Months

- Transitional Situations: 1 to 3 contacts of 1 to 4 hours each per week.
- Typical Situations: 1 or 2 contacts of 1 to 4 hours plus one 8-hour contact, though not overnight per week.
- Exceptional Situations: up to daily contact, including overnights.

Children Age 7 to 18 Months

- Transitional Situations: 1 to 3 contacts of 1 to 4 hours each per week.
- Typical Situations: 1 or 2 contacts up to 8 hours, not overnight.
- Exceptional Situations: up to daily contact plus overnight.

Children Age 19 to 36 Months

- Transitional Situations: 1 to 3 contacts of 1 to 8 hours each week.
- Typical Situations: 1 or 2 contacts of 3 hours plus one biweekly overnight.
- Exceptional Situations: up to daily contact plus overnights.

Children Age 37 to 48 Months (26 overnights plus 15 holidays, total : 41)

- alternating weekends from 9:00 a.m. Saturday to 6:00 p.m. Sunday
- one weekday evening during the week prior to weekend parenting time for at least two hours
- two weekday evenings for at least two hours during the week following weekend parenting time
- Holidays as provided in the holiday parenting time policy

Parenting Time Schedule for Children Age Four to School Age (52 weekend overnights plus 15 overnights for extended parenting time plus 12 holidays, total : 79)

For children who are four years old but have not yet completed kindergarten, the parenting time schedule shall be as follows:

- Alternating weekends from 6:00 p.m. Friday to 6:00 p.m. Sunday.
- One evening each week for a minimum of two hours.
- Three weeks during the summer, either consecutive or non-consecutive as the parents agree.
- Holidays as provided in the holiday parenting time policy below.

Parenting Time Schedule for School Age Children (52 weekend overnights plus 15 overnights for extended parenting time plus 12 holidays, total : 79)

For children who have completed kindergarten, the parenting time schedule shall be as follows:

- Alternating weekends from 6:00 p.m. Friday to 6:00 p.m. Sunday.
- One evening each week for a minimum of two hours.
- Three weeks during the summer, either consecutive or non as the parents agree
- Holidays as provided in the holiday parenting time policy.

Extended Parenting Time Schedule (approximately 15 overnights – this does not include weekend overnights which are counted in another section)

When the oldest child has completed kindergarten, that child shall have the following extended parenting times with the non-custodial parent:

A minimum of three weeks each summer, in blocks of time of no less than 7 days, which shall qualify for support abatement if the support Order so provides.

If no agreement is reached by the parties in regards to what weeks the non-custodial parent shall exercise his/her parenting time, the following schedule shall take place:

First week: Begins the first weekend the non-custodial parent has with the child(ren), following the completion of the school year, on Friday at 6:00 p.m. and concludes the following Friday at 6:00 p.m.

Second week: Begins the first weekend of the non-custodial parent following the fourth of July on Friday at 6:00 p.m. and concludes the following Friday at 6:00 p.m.

Third week: Begins the first weekend of the non-custodial parent after August 01 on Friday at 6:00 p.m. and concludes the following Friday at 6:00 p.m.