

**STANDARD PARENTING TIME ORDER**

**DARKE COUNTY COURTS  
GENERAL DIVISION/JUVENILE COURT**

PARENT 1: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT 2: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR PARENTS TRAVELING OVER 90 MILES ONE WAY**

Liberal parenting time arrangements are encouraged, as contact with both parents is important to the children. Specific items in the Journal Entry take precedence over this schedule. Changes or modifications can be made by the Court if need for such is shown. This schedule does not affect support payments.

Activities you engage in with your children, skills you teach them, or friends you help them make will make their time with you more rewarding. Additionally, regardless of how much time each parent spends with the children, there are many opportunities to be involved in their lives, such as participation and attendance at their school, sporting and extracurricular activities.

PARENTING TIME BETWEEN THE CHILDREN AND THE NON-RESIDENTIAL PARENT SHALL TAKE PLACE AT SUCH TIMES AND PLACES AS THE PARTIES MAY AGREE, BUT WILL NOT BE LESS THAN:

1. Pre-School Age:

Unless otherwise agreed, pre-School age children shall follow the same schedule as school age children in the school district where they live, whether or not a school age child resides in the family. Frequent contact with both parents is recommended for very young children.

2. Winter Break:

Winter Break will be divided in half and alternated annually between the parents. In even numbered years, Parent 1 shall have parenting time 9:00 a.m. the day after school recesses until 12:00 p.m. on December 26<sup>th</sup>. Parent 2 shall have parenting time from 12:00 p.m. on December 26<sup>th</sup> until 12:00 p.m. the day before school resumes. In odd numbered years, Parent 2 shall have parenting time 9:00 a.m. the day after school recesses until 12:00 p.m. on December 26<sup>th</sup>. Parent 1 shall have parenting time from 12:00 p.m. on December 26<sup>th</sup> until 12:00 p.m. the day before school resumes.

3. Spring Break:

The non-residential parent shall be entitled to the entire school vacation (the day school is out to the day before school recommences) in odd-numbered years.

4. Summer:

Each parent shall be entitled to one half of the school summer vacation. Summer school necessary for the child(ren) to pass to the next grade must be attended. The residential parent shall notify the non-residential parent by March 15 of when the summer vacation begins and ends. The non-residential parent must notify the residential parent as to their intentions by April 15.

- a. If the parties cannot agree which half of the summer they prefer, in the even-numbered years, the first half of the summer shall be spent at the home of the non-residential parent, and in the odd-numbered years, the second half.
- b. A general itinerary should be provided either parent if more than 2 days will be spent away from either home when the children are in that parent's care.

5. Vacations:

Each parent may arrange an uninterrupted vacation of not more than two weeks with the children. If this includes a trip away from home a general itinerary of the vacation shall be provided for the other parent, including dates, locations, addresses, and telephone numbers.

6. Additional Parenting time:

- a. Weekend: A once-a-month, weekend visit to the long-distance parent's home shall be permitted if the child's traveling time does not exceed THREE AND ONE HALF HOURS, one way. The residential parent must be notified at least one week in advance. THE NONRESIDENTIAL PARENT SHALL PROVIDE THE TRANSPORTATION FOR WEEKEND PARENTING TIME.
- b. Father's Day and Mother's Day should always be spent with the appropriate parent.
- c. The non-residential parent shall notify the residential parent at least two days in advance of any time the non-residential parent will be in the area and wants parenting time. Absent extraordinary circumstances, this parenting time shall occur.
- d. The residential parent shall notify the non-residential parent at least two days in advance when the residential parent and child(ren) will be in the area of the non-residential parent, and parenting time must be allowed.

7. Communication:

- a. Children can communicate with either parent as often as they wish, at reasonable times and frequencies, via telephone or electronic means (e.g. text, Skype, FaceTime).
- b. In addition, the non-possessory parent shall be entitled to telephone or electronic (e.g. FaceTime, Skype) communication of reasonable duration with the children not fewer than three times per week.

c. Neither parent shall excessively interfere with nor stop the telephone or electronic communication.

8. Transportation:

a. Responsibility for transportation costs should be decided in advance and a plan written into an Order of the Court. The costs of transportation, in the appropriate case, may be a basis for deviation from the child support schedule. Parties shall also decide and provide in the plan where the child(ren) shall be picked up and dropped off.

b. In cases involving long distances between the parents, travel by methods other than motor vehicle may be necessary. Such travel may require the primary parent to transport the child in a timely manner to the appropriate transportation terminal for departure and must be there upon arrival.

c. Airline regulations govern the age at which children may fly unaccompanied by an adult. An older child may fly under such regulations as each airline may establish. Airline reservations should be made well in advance and preferably be non-stop flights. The parent who is responsible for the child's departure shall immediately notify the other parent upon the flight's departure. Likewise, the parent at the child's destination must immediately notify the other parent of the child's arrival. Despite airline regulations, parents should consider the maturity of the child(ren) in making the decision on this method of transportation whether or not the child may need an adult to chaperone the flight.

d. The parents should carefully consider in using any other means of transportation, the age of the child, the safety of the child traveling alone, and the experience in traveling alone, or whether an adult well-known to the child(ren) should accompany the child(ren). No means of transportation that puts the child(ren) at risk should be considered.

e. Costs of transportation are generally borne by the parent who has chosen to relocate outside the 90 mile radius. However, the court has the discretion to allocate those expenses between the parties.

9. Moving:

Upon either parent learning or determining, whichever first occurs, that he/she will be moving, he/she will immediately notify the other parent and provide the other parent with the moving date, new residence address and telephone number, and such other pertinent information necessary to effectuate a smooth move for the children. The parents shall attempt, in good faith, to renegotiate an appropriate and beneficial new parenting time schedule.

10. Current Address and Telephone Number:

Except as provided in the court order, each parent shall keep the other informed of his/her current address and telephone number at all times.

Emergency Contact: Both parents shall at all times, regardless of whether the children are with him/her, provide the other parent with a telephone number for contact in the event of an emergency.

11. Car Seat:

For any and all children required by law to ride in a car seat, the parents shall transfer the car seat with the child as parenting time exchanges occur.

12. Clothing:

The parents shall cooperate in the exchange of the children's clothing prior to and following parenting time.