



**FRIEND OF THE COURT  
FOR THE  
FIFTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MICHIGAN**

James P. Lambros  
Chief Circuit Court Judge

Elizabeth C. Chambers  
Friend of the Court

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**PARENTING TIME POLICY**

The Court must grant parenting time according to the best interests of the child. Michigan law requires the Court to presume that a strong relationship with both parents is in the child's best interests. Accordingly, the Court will enter a parenting time order for parenting time unless it finds by clear and convincing evidence that parenting time would endanger the child's physical, mental, or emotional health. Parenting time will be granted in a frequency, duration and type reasonably calculated to promote a strong relationship between the child and the parents.

Please note that the schedule below is a guideline only. This schedule is not a court order unless adopted as part of a court order. These guidelines do not apply strictly to every family; they may be modified to fit the circumstances and the distance separating the parents. If parents agree on parenting terms, the Court will follow those terms unless it determines, on the record, that the parenting terms are not in the best interests of the child. **Note: The Friend of the Court cannot enforce agreements between the parties that are not in a written court order.**

**\*The applicable policy shall be determined by the age of the eldest child of the parties\***

**Children under 18 months:** Parenting time shall occur every Wednesday from 5:30pm to 7:30pm and every Sunday from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. Holidays per the holiday parenting time schedule; however parenting time shall only occur on the day of the holiday, from 10:00AM until 7:30PM, except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day shall follow the regular holiday schedule.

**Children 18-36 months:** Parenting time shall occur on alternating weekends beginning at 9:00am Saturday until 6:00pm Sunday, and every Wednesday from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Holidays and summer break per the holiday parenting time schedule.

**Children older than 36 months:** Parenting time shall occur on alternating weekends from Friday at 6:00pm to Sunday at 6:00pm, and every Wednesday from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Holidays and breaks per the holiday parenting time schedule.

**HOLIDAY PARENTING TIME SCHEDULE**

HOLIDAY	STARTING TIME	ENDING TIME	EVEN YEARS	ODD YEARS
EASTER	6:00pm Friday	6:00pm Sunday	Mother	Father
MEMORIAL DAY	6:00pm Friday	6:00pm Monday	Father	Mother
INDEPENDENCE DAY	6:00pm July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6:00pm July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Mother	Father
LABOR DAY	6:00pm Friday	6:00pm Monday	Father	Mother
HALLOWEEN	5:00pm	8:00pm	Mother	Father
THANKSGIVING	6:00pm Wednesday	6:00pm Sunday	Father	Mother
CHRISTMAS EVE (24 <sup>th</sup> )	12:00noon	12:00noon on Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Mother	Father
CHRISTMAS DAY (25 <sup>th</sup> )	12:00noon	12:00noon on Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Father	Mother

**Birthday Parenting Time:** The parties shall alternate the child(ren)'s birthdays beginning with the mother in even numbered years. Birthday parenting time shall be from 9:00am until 8:00pm. If the child's birthday falls on a school day, birthday parenting time shall be from after school until 8:00pm. If the child's birthday falls on a holiday, the holiday takes precedence over the birthday. Birthday parenting time shall include all minor children of the case.

**Mother's Day and Father's Day:** Begins Friday at 6:00pm and ends Sunday at 6:00pm.

**Winter (Christmas) Break:** the parties shall share the Winter Break each year as follows:

WINTER BREAK	EVEN YEARS	ODD YEARS
FIRST PORTION	Father	Mother
SECOND PORTION	Mother	Father

Winter Break is defined as 6:00pm the day school recesses until 6:00pm the day before school resumes. The parties are to count the total number of days inclusive in the defined break (not including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day holidays) and equally divide the break in two portions. One day is defined as 6:00pm that day until 6:00pm the following day. If there are an odd number of days in the designated break, the mid-break exchange shall take place at 12:00pm on the day of the exchange. If there are no school age children, the Winter Break is defined as December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm until January 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm.

**Spring Break:** The parties shall alternate Spring Break from school each year beginning with the mother having Spring Break in even numbered years. Spring Break is defined as 6:00pm the day school recesses until 6:00pm the day before school is to resume.

**Summer parenting time:** In scheduling summer parenting time, the age of the child as of June 1<sup>st</sup> shall determine which schedule applies:

**Children under 18 months:** The regular parenting time schedule will be observed.

**Children 18-48 months:** The non-custodial parent shall have one week in June, one week in July, and one week in August.

**Children older than 48 months:** The non-custodial parent will be entitled one-half of the child(ren)'s summer break from school. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, parenting time shall alternate between the parties on a two week on/two week off rotation. The non-custodial parent's first two week block shall begin the Sunday after school recesses for the summer. Summer parenting time shall conclude three full days before school resumes in the fall.

1. **Precedence:** Alternate weekend and midweek parenting time is not exercised during Spring Break, Winter Break and summer vacation. The weekend parenting time schedule resumes following the designated break periods, using the same rotation that was practiced prior to the start of the break. Holidays take precedence over regularly scheduled parenting time unless otherwise stated in the court order.
2. **Transportation:** Unless otherwise stated in the court order, the parties shall share transportation for parenting time, with the parent whose parenting time is about to begin being responsible for picking up the child(ren) at the address on record at the Friend of the Court Office of other parent. Either parent may designate a third party who is a licensed driver, 18 years of age or older, free from the influence of alcohol/controlled substances, and with whom the child(ren) is familiar, to provide transportation for any parenting time.
3. **Late Pickup:** Parties are allowed a 30 minute grace period for parenting time exchanges in unexpected circumstances. After 30 minutes, if the child is still at home, parenting time shall be allowed if pickup is at a reasonable hour. If a parent appears later than 30 minutes or is habitually late for exchanges, the other parent may file a written parenting time complaint with Friend of the Court.
4. **Multiple children:** If there are multiple children under the court order, Winter (Christmas), spring, and summer break shall be defined pursuant to the school schedule for the oldest child in school.
5. **Telephone Contact:** The parties shall be allowed reasonable phone contact and e-mail contact with the child while the child is at the residence of the other parent.
6. **Advance Notice of Inability to Exercise Parenting Time:** It is expected both parents will assure that all scheduled parenting time occurs. The non-custodial parent shall arrange his/her schedule so parenting time will occur. In the event the non-custodial parent is unable to exercise scheduled parenting time, he/she shall give the custodial parent twenty-four (24) hours advanced notice.
7. **Records:** Each party is responsible for obtaining a school schedule for themselves. Each party is further responsible for obtaining school records and medical records for themselves.
8. **Denial of parenting time and violation of parenting time provision:** All alleged denials of parenting time and violations of parenting time provisions must be reported, in writing, to the Friend of the Court Office within 56 days of when the alleged violation took place. You must appear at the pickup location at the court ordered time to claim denial of parenting time. The Friend of the Court will provide written notification to the parties on how to proceed with each specific alleged violation.

The foregoing policy is adopted May 4, 2017.

  
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Hon. James P. Lambros  
Chief Circuit Court Judge

  
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Elizabeth C. Chambers  
Friend of the Court for Chippewa County