

MEDINA COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT  
STANDARD LONG-DISTANCE PARENTING TIME SCHEDULE  
[LOCAL RULE VI, FORM 6.04B]

Effective 03/1/2002

Liberal parenting time arrangements are encouraged, as contact with both parents is important to the minor children. The best parenting time schedule is your own plan. **All parties are strongly encouraged to develop their own plan.** However, for parties who cannot agree, the Court has designed this plan to ensure that minor children have frequent and consistent contact with both parents.

If you are unable to agree to a different plan, but have objections to this plan because of special circumstances (*e.g.*, travel time, work schedules) or problems (*e.g.*, substance abuse, mental illness, violence) be prepared to present specific facts in a scheduled hearing to show why this parenting time schedule is not in the best interests of your child.

Parenting time is presumed to occur at the parental residence. For children 6 and under, each parent shall notify the other of any overnight stays away from the parental residence or travel outside the area of the residential county. Whenever possible, such notice shall be given in advance and otherwise as soon as practicable. Notice shall include the address and telephone number of the location where the children are staying. For children over 6 years old, parents are urged to voluntarily disclose travel plans or overnight stays away from the parental residence.

I. **SUMMER PARENTING TIME**

- A. For children age five (5) and older, the greater of seven (7) weeks or one-half the school summer recess. School summer recess is defined as beginning the day after the last day the children attend school, and ending the day before school reconvenes. If the children are not yet of school age, summer recess will be based upon the public school calendar of the district in which the residential parent resides. The residential parent shall notify the nonresidential parent by March 15 of each year of the dates summer recess begins and ends. The nonresidential parent must notify the residential parent in writing by April 30 of each year of the summer parenting time dates; summer parenting time shall not be exercised during the last week before school reconvenes unless agreed by the parties in writing or ordered by the Court.

- B. For children age four (4), three (3) weeks during the summer recess, as defined in Paragraph A. If a child in this age group has older siblings, the parenting time shall be scheduled to coincide with the older siblings’.
- C. Summer parenting time for children under the age of four (4) shall be as agreed by the parties in writing or by order of Court. In considering parenting time for children in this age group, parents should consider the child’s age and development, maturity, emotional attachment to each parent, attachment to any siblings and whether or not those siblings are involved in the same parenting time, the degree of familiarity and comfort the child has with the nonresidential parent, and any other relevant factors.

II. **HOLIDAYS**

A. FOR CHILDREN AGE FOUR (4) AND OLDER.

Option 1: Christmas and Spring breaks in even years; Thanksgiving in odd years.

Option 2: One-half of the Christmas break, including Christmas Day in even years.

One-half of the Christmas break, excluding Christmas Day in odd years.

Thanksgiving break in odd years.

Spring break: One-half of the break, excluding Easter where applicable in odd years.

One-half of the break, including Easter where applicable in even years.

Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring breaks are defined by the school calendar in the district where the residential parent resides, unless the parties agree otherwise in writing.

The nonresidential parent is entitled to select the option for holiday parenting time, subject to determination by the Court if the residential parent objects. The selection must be set forth in the judgment entry and, if not, then Option 1 shall be in effect.

Father's Day shall be spent with Father and Mother's Day shall be spent with Mother whenever suitable transportation arrangements can be made. Visits shall be from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., or as otherwise agreed.

The nonresidential parent shall have parenting time with the child on the child's birthday in odd numbered years, whenever appropriate transportation can be arranged.

By October 1 of each year, the residential parent shall notify the nonresidential parent in writing as to the date and time periods for when Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring breaks occur in the school district where the residential parent resides.

By November 1 of each year, the nonresidential parent shall notify the residential parent in writing as to the following:

1. Whether parenting time will be exercised;
2. What the travel arrangements will be;
3. When the children need to be ready for departure;
4. When the children will be returned.

Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring breaks begin at 6:00 p.m. the day school ends and terminate at 6:00 p.m. the day before school reconvenes. Reasonable deviations from these hours shall be made as appropriate to accommodate travel schedules that are not controlled by a parent, such as airlines or other public transportation.

**B. FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE FOUR (4).**

Holiday parenting time for children under the age of four (4) shall be as agreed by the parties in writing or by order of Court. In considering parenting time for children in this age group, parents should consider the child's age and development, maturity, emotional attachment to each parent, attachment to any siblings and whether or not those siblings are involved in the same parenting time, the degree of familiarity and comfort the child has with the nonresidential parent and any other relevant factors.

**III. WEEKEND PARENTING TIME**

**A. FOR CHILDREN TWO (2) YEARS OLD AND OLDER.**

Parenting time shall be permitted once per month provided the travel time for the minor children is no more than three (3) hours one way. The nonresidential parent must notify the

residential parent at least one (1) week in advance if he/she intends to exercise weekend parenting time.

**B. FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE TWO (2).**

All parenting time for children under age two (2) shall be as agreed by the parties in writing or by order of Court. In considering parenting time for children in this age group, parents should consider the child's age and development, maturity, emotional attachment to each parent, attachment to any siblings and whether or not those siblings are involved in the same parenting time, the degree of familiarity and comfort the child has with the nonresidential parent and any other relevant factors. As much as possible, parents should strive to achieve parenting time similar to that provided for this age group in the local standard parenting time schedule.

**IV. OTHER PARENTING TIME.**

- A. The nonresidential parent shall notify the residential parent at least two (2) days in advance of any time the nonresidential parent will be in the area and wants a parenting time period. Absent extraordinary circumstances, parenting time shall occur in a manner appropriate to the child's age and development.
- B. The residential parent shall notify the nonresidential parent at least two (2) days in advance when the residential parent and the minor children will be in the area of the nonresidential parent, and parenting time shall be permitted in a manner appropriate to the children's age and development.

**V. TELEPHONE CALLS.**

Each parent has the right to talk over the telephone with the children as often as the parents agree. If the parents do not agree, then the nonresidential parent should normally have telephone privileges at least twice per week. In addition, a parent may call a child once during a scheduled or agreed parenting time period that is missed. Also the residential parent has the right to call a child when on vacation with the other parent as the parties can agree; if no agreement, then the residential parent has telephone privileges up to twice per week. Phone calls should be made during the normal hours a child is awake, and if the child is unavailable for conversation, each parent shall take the responsibility of seeing that the child timely returns the calls. Also, any time a child is with one parent, he or she shall be permitted to call the other parent. Any long

distance calls made by a child to a parent shall be collect unless the other parent agrees otherwise.

**VI. VACATIONS AWAY FROM HOME.**

Whenever either parent takes the children on vacation away from that parent's home, she/he shall notify the other parent at least fourteen (14) days in advance, in writing, and provide the other parent with a written agenda indicating the vacation destination, phone numbers where she/he can be reached, times of arrival and departure, and method of travel.

**VII. SUPPORT OF PARENTING TIME.**

If a child indicates strong opposition to being with the other parent, it is the responsibility of each parent to appropriately deal with the situation, by calmly talking to the child as to the child's reasons, and to work with the other parent to do what is in the child's best interests, and particularly, to avoid confrontation or unpleasant scenes. If the matter is not settled, either parent should seek the immediate assistance of a mental health professional or file a motion. As uncomfortable as this issue may be for a parent, this issue should not go unresolved. It is the absolute affirmative duty of the residential parent to make certain that his or her child goes for the parenting time period.

**VIII. ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS.**

Each parent must, unless the Court orders otherwise, keep the other informed of his or her current residence address and telephone number, and an alternate telephone number in the event of an emergency. A P.O. Box or other address that is used for mail but is not the actual residence does not satisfy this requirement. If mail is only received at a P.O. Box address, that address must also be provided.

**IX. ACCESS TO SCHOOL AND MEDICAL RECORDS, DAY CARE RECORDS, AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES.**

Pursuant to O.R.C. §§3109.051(H), (I) AND (J), the non-residential parent is entitled to access under the same terms and conditions under which access is provided to the residential

parent to any record related to the children, and any student activity related to the children, or any public school, private school, or day care that is, or in the future may be, attended by the children.