

MODEL PARENTING PLAN

(See 7th Judicial District Supplementary Local Rule 8.075)

DEFINITIONS

“Child” includes all minor children of the parties.

“Custodial parent” refers to the party awarded sole custody; if joint custody is awarded, it refers to the person designated as providing the child’s primary physical residence.

“Non-custodial parent” refers to the party who is not the custodial parent as defined above.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Personal plans and the child’s desires: The child shall not be permitted to determine whether to follow the parenting plan. Personal plans of the custodial parent or child (for example, school or church activities) are not reasons for failing to follow the parenting plan. Only substantial medical reasons involving the child shall be considered sufficient to postpone the non-custodial parent’s parenting time.

If a child is ill and unable to be with the non-custodial parent, a make-up parenting time shall occur on the following weekend. If the non-custodial parent fails to exercise parenting time, the parenting time will not be made-up.

Long distance parenting time: A child under seven years of age shall not travel long distances for parenting time unless accompanied by a parent or mutually agreed upon adult. A child seven years of age or older may travel alone, provided appropriate travel arrangements have been made.

Conflicts in parenting time schedule: Specifically designated parenting time (such as Spring, Summer and Winter vacation parenting time) shall take precedence over weekend and weekday parenting time.

Delivery and pick-up: Parenting time shall be exercised in a prompt manner. Pick up and delivery shall occur no more than 15 minutes before or 15 minutes after the time specified for parenting time to begin and end. The non-custodial parent shall pick up the child at the start of that parent's parenting time period and the custodial parent shall pick up the child at the end of non-custodial parent's parenting time period.

Meals and clothes: The custodial parent shall have the child fed and ready to begin parenting time with the non-custodial parent, with sufficient clothing packed. The non-custodial parent shall have the child fed before returning the child from that parent's parenting time period and shall return with the child all clothing received from the custodial parent.

Correspondence and telephone contact: Each parent shall have the right to freely correspond with the child and to telephone the child at least three times per week during reasonable hours, for periods not exceeding 20 minutes, without monitoring by any person.

A child over the age of 12 shall have the right to initiate calls to the other parent during reasonable hours. Long distance calls initiated by the child are to be made collect, unless the parties agree otherwise.

Mutual respect: Both parents shall refrain from making comments in the presence of the child that are intended or likely to diminish the love, respect and affection that the child has for the other parent.

Access to records and information: The non-custodial parent has the right to the following:

- (1) To inspect and receive school records and to consult with school staff concerning the child's welfare and education, to the same extent as the custodial parent.
- (2) To inspect and receive governmental agency and law enforcement records concerning the child, to the same extent as the custodial parent.
- (3) To consult with any person who may provide care or medical treatment for

the child and to inspect and receive the child's medical, dental and psychological records, to the same extent as the custodial parent.

(4) To authorize emergency medical, dental, psychological, psychiatric or other health care for the child if the custodial parent is, for practical purposes, unavailable.

Day care: Each parent shall be responsible for arranging and paying for day care for the child when the child is with that parent. The term "with that parent" means that the parent has picked up the child and started a period of parenting time.

Emergencies: Each party shall immediately notify the other party of emergency circumstances or substantial changes in the health or safety of the child.

PARENTING TIME PROVISIONS

WEEKEND PARENTING TIME SCHEDULE

Generally: The non-custodial parent shall have the child every other weekend, beginning on Friday night at 6:00 p.m. and ending the following Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

School closure days and bank holidays: School closure days are days when school is not in session, excepting summer vacation, the winter school break and spring vacation.

The parents shall obtain a school calendar for the school district in which the child resides for the purpose of determining school closure days.

Bank holidays are days when most banks are closed, such as Memorial Day, Labor Day and the Fourth of July.

If the non-custodial parent's weekend parenting time is immediately preceded by a school closure day(s) or bank holiday, the weekend parenting time shall begin 6:00 p.m. on the day that the school or banks close for the week. If it is immediately followed by a school closure day(s) or bank holiday, the weekend parenting time will continue until 6:00 p.m. on Monday.

Alternating weekends: The alternate weekend parenting time schedule shall rotate each year as follows: In all even-numbered years, the non-custodial parent's first weekend visit shall begin at 6:00 p.m. on the first Friday after New Year's Day; In all odd-numbered years, the non-custodial parent's first weekend shall begin the second Friday following New Year's Day.

WEEKDAY PARENTING TIME SCHEDULE

The non-custodial parent shall have parenting time with the child every other Wednesday, meaning a Wednesday that is not immediately followed by a weekend when the

non-custodial parent is scheduled to have parenting time. If the child is in school, the non-custodial parent shall visit the child on Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. If the child is not in school, the visit shall begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 8:00 p.m.

WINTER VACATION SCHEDULE

Even-numbered years: In all even-numbered years, the non-custodial parent shall have parenting time beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the day that school adjourns until 10:00 a.m. on December 26 and from 10:00 a.m. on January 1 until 5:00 p.m. the day before the child's winter vacation ends.

Odd-numbered years: In all odd-numbered years, the non-custodial parent shall have parenting time beginning at 10:00 a.m. on December 26 and ending at 6:00 p.m. the day before school is back in session.

SUMMER PARENTING TIME

Selecting the summer parenting time period(s): The non-custodial parent shall provide custodial parent with written notice by April 15 of the time(s) that the noncustodial parent intends to exercise summer parenting time rights.

The custodial parent shall have the right to an uninterrupted two (2) week parenting period during the summer months as long as the custodial parent provides the noncustodial parent with written notice, by May 15, of the time that the custodial parent intends to exercise that period and the two (2) week period does not interfere with the non-custodial parent's summer parenting time schedule.

Children under the age of 6: When a child is under the age of 6, the noncustodial parent's summer parenting time with that child shall be divided into three (3) blocks of time; each block shall consist of a one(1) week parenting period. Each parenting period for the non-custodial parent is to be separated by at least a one (1) week period of parenting time for the custodial parent.

Children age 6 or older: When the child is age 6 or older, the non-custodial parent's summer parenting time shall be for sixty (60) consecutive days. During that period, if the parents live within 60 miles of each other, the custodial parent shall have the same weekend parenting time as would the non-custodial parent.

SPRING VACATION

The non-custodial parent shall have the right to parenting time during the Spring vacation from school in odd-numbered years from 6:00 p.m. on the day school closes until 6:00 p.m. the Saturday before school resumes.

MOTHER'S AND FATHER'S DAYS

The mother shall always have the right to parenting time with the child on Mother's Day; the father shall always have the right to parenting time with the child on Father's Day. In the event that Mother's/Father's Day falls on a weekend when the other parent would otherwise have the right to parenting time with the child, the child shall be returned to the parent for whom the day is in honor by 10:00 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

Each parent shall have the right to parenting time with the child on that parent's birthday as outlined below. In odd-numbered years, the non-custodial parent shall have the right to parenting time with the child on the child's birthday as outlined below.

On days when school is in session, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. On days when school is not in session, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.