

**Tuscarawas County, Ohio, Court of Common Pleas
General Trial Division**

**Long-Distance Standard Parenting Order
and Rules Governing Parenting Time**

Based upon the Court’s consideration of the best interests of the child(ren), as set forth in the Judgment Entry which incorporates this document, the parents shall comply with the following Long-Distance Standard Parenting Order and Rules Governing Parenting Time. This Order is intended for cases in which parents reside more than 150 miles (one-way) from each other, unless the parents otherwise agree.

I. Standard Parenting Order

A. Infants: Birth to 6 months of age

For infants and children younger than 6 months of age, the non-residential parent may spend time with the infant 3 times per week for 3-hour sessions. If the parents cannot agree as to the days and times, the non-residential parent shall have parenting time as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				5:30PM to 8:30PM	10:00AM to 1:00PM	Noon to 3:00PM

In odd-numbered years, the non-residential parent may have parenting time from Noon to 3:00 PM on Easter and Thanksgiving Day but shall not have parenting time on Christmas Day.

In even-numbered years, the non-residential parent may have parenting time from Noon to 3:00 PM on Christmas Day but shall not have parenting time on Easter or Thanksgiving Day.

B. Infants and children: 6 months of age to age 2

For infants and children between 6 months of age and 2 years, the non-residential parent parenting time schedule shall be as follows on alternating weeks, unless otherwise agreed:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				4:00PM to 8:00PM	10:00AM to 2:00PM	Noon to 4:00PM
					Overnight Begins at 10:00 AM	Overnight Ends at 7:00 PM

In odd-numbered years, the non-residential parent may have parenting time from Noon to 4:00 PM on Easter and Thanksgiving Day but shall not have parenting time on Christmas Day.

In even-numbered years, the non-residential parent may have parenting time from Noon to 4:00 PM on Christmas Day but shall not have parenting time on Easter or Thanksgiving Day.

C. Children: Age 2 to age 5 or 6

Beginning at age 2 to age 5 or 6, before the child enters kindergarten, the non-residential parent is permitted parenting time with the child a minimum of one week per month and a maximum of 2 weeks per month from Friday 7:00PM to the following Saturday at 7:00PM. Parents are strongly encouraged to take their child’s preschool schedule into account.

In odd-numbered years, the non-residential parenting time may include Easter and Thanksgiving Day but shall not include Christmas Day.

In even-numbered years, the non-residential parenting time may include Christmas Day but shall not include Easter or Thanksgiving Day.

D. Children: Age 5 or 6 (kindergarten) to age 14

Beginning at age 5 or 6, or whenever the child starts kindergarten, up to age 14, the non-residential parent shall be afforded 6 weeks of parenting time with the child during the traditional summer school vacation months of June, July and August. These visits shall occur in blocks of time of 2 weeks if the child is age 5 to 10 years, and 4-week blocks of time if the child is age 10 to 14 years.

The non-residential parent shall be entitled to 1 additional week during the Christmas/Winter break and 1 additional week during the Spring/Easter break.

In odd-numbered years, the non-residential parenting time may include Easter but shall not include Christmas Day.

In even-numbered years, the non-residential parenting time may include Christmas Day but shall not include Easter.

E. Teenager: Age 14 to 18

For a child age 14 and older, parents shall continue to follow the above schedule for children age 5 to age 14, including parenting time during Christmas/Winter break and Spring/Easter break, but make reasonable accommodation for the teenager's participation in academic, athletic, extracurricular and social activities or employment.

F. Conflicting Schedules Due to Ages of Children

If parents have children who fit into two or more parenting time schedules, the parents shall agree on which schedule to follow or present the issue to the Court by motion for a determination.

II. Rules Governing Parenting Time

Parents are encouraged to work together to establish rules and guidelines that make parenting time beneficial for both parents and the children. Unless otherwise agreed upon between the parents, the following Rules Governing Parenting Time shall apply:

A. Notice of Intent to Exercise Parenting Time

General Parenting Time – The non-residential parent shall give the residential parent notice of intent to exercise parenting time no later than 48 hours in advance unless earlier notice is required by one of the following sections.

Spring/Easter Break, Christmas/Winter Break and Thanksgiving – The non-residential parent shall give the residential parent notice of intent to exercise parenting time during Spring/Easter Break, Christmas/Winter Break or on Thanksgiving no later than 30 days in advance.

Vacations, Summer Break and Special Plans – The non-residential parent shall give the residential parent notice of intent to exercise parenting time during summer break and of vacations or other special plans at least 60 days in advance.

Likewise, the residential parent must give the non-residential parent notice of vacations and other special plans or events at least 60 days in advance to avoid planning conflicts.

The non-residential parent's choice of vacation has priority over the residential parent's choice, unless the residential parent has given prior notice of a vacation or other special plans.

Each parent must provide the other parent with destination, times of arrival and departure, method of travel, together with emergency telephone or contact numbers, if any extended vacation will be taken away from that parent's residence.

The non-residential parent shall not schedule vacation or parenting time for the week before school starts.

B. Exchanges and Transportation

Both parents shall prepare the child physically and emotionally for all exchanges to the best of their ability.

Transportation by Plane, Bus, other Public Transportation. If using airlines for transportation, the parties are encouraged to work together and obtain a round-trip ticket and split the costs. The residential parent must deliver the child to the designated

airport or bus/train station. A child younger than age 12 shall not travel long distances for parenting time unless accompanied by a parent or mutually agreed-upon adult. Approval of a non-parent travel companion shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Transportation by Car. The non-residential parent shall be responsible for picking up the child or otherwise arranging transportation at the beginning of his or her parenting time. The residential parent shall be responsible for picking up the child or otherwise arranging transportation at the end of the non-residential parent's parenting time. Any person transporting a child must possess a valid driver's license, and the child shall be properly restrained in the manner required by law during transportation.

C. Telephone/Email contact/other phone or computer communication (snapchat, texting, etc.)

Parents may have unmonitored communication with the child during the other parent's scheduled parenting time, at least once a day, but no later than 8:00PM or as otherwise agreed.

Each parent shall encourage free communication between the child and the other parent, and shall not do anything to impede or restrict that communication.

D. Cooperation

Each parent shall refrain from voicing criticism of the other parent, either in or out of the presence of the child, and shall further do everything in his or her power to encourage others to refrain from similar conduct. Parenting time shall not be used by either parent to check on the other parent. Neither parent shall interrogate the child during or following the parenting time as a means to gather information regarding the other parent.

E. Use of Alcohol or Drugs

During parenting time, neither parent shall consume alcohol to excess or use illegal drugs.

F. Consistency

Both parents shall strive for consistency and agreement in all matters regarding the child, including disciplinary matters.

G. Exchange of School & Extracurricular Activity Information

Both parents shall timely give to the other parent copies in their possession of grade reports, disciplinary notices and/or communications, including information regarding school pictures. Each parent is responsible to set up his or her own online access to school records and information, if available.

H. Summer School

Summer School necessary for the child to pass to the next grade, or as recommended by the appropriate school official, must be attended and official notice of such requirement shall be shared between the parents. In the event the non-residential parent elects to exercise his or her parenting time during summer school, they shall be responsible to make sure that the child attends summer school.

I. Medications

If the child is prescribed medication that is to be administered during parenting time, the residential parent shall provide the medication to the non-residential parent along with clear instructions. The non-residential parent shall follow the instructions that are provided.