

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

**Standard Parenting Order
and Rules Governing Companionship 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 Standard Parenting Order and Rules Governing Companionship Time. See each category based on the age of the child(ren).

I. Standard Parenting Order

A. Infant – 6 months

For infants younger than 6 months of age, Parent 1 is the parent designated as the residential parent by an order of the Court. Parent 2 is the non-residential parent and may spend time with the infant three days per week for two-hour visits, which will occur at a location agreed upon between the parties. If the parents cannot agree as to the days and times, the following schedule shall be followed:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1
Parent 2 2:00PM to 4:00PM		Parent 2 6:00PM to 8:00PM		Parent 2 6:00PM to 8:00PM		
Parent 1		Parent 1		Parent 1		

B. Infant: 6 months – Age 3

Beginning at 6 months of age, Parent 1 is the parent designated as the residential parent by an order of the Court. Parent 2 is the non-residential parent and may spend at a minimum two mid-week visits and alternating weekends, Saturday morning to Sunday evening. If the parents cannot agree as to the days and times, the following schedule shall be followed:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1
		Parent 2 5:30 PM to 8:30PM		Parent 2 5:30PM to 8:30PM		Parent 2 10:00 AM
		Parent 1		Parent 1		
Parent 2	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1
Parent 1 6:00PM		Parent 2 5:30 PM to 8:30PM		Parent 2 5:30PM to 8:30PM		
		Parent 1		Parent 1		
Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1
		Parent 2 5:30 PM to 8:30PM		Parent 2 5:30PM to 8:30PM		Parent 2 10:00AM
		Parent 1		Parent 1		
Parent 2	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1
Parent 1 6:00PM		Parent 2 5:30 PM to 8:30PM		Parent 2 5:30PM to 8:30PM		
		Parent 1		Parent 1		

C. Children: Age 3 to 13

Beginning at the age of 3, the parents shall share equal parenting time, unless there are clearly defined special circumstances that would prevent them from doing so. Each parent is considered the residential parent when the child is with them, unless the court order states otherwise. If the parents cannot agree, the following schedule shall be followed:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 2	Parent 2	Parent 2	Parent 2
		Parent 2 6PM				
Parent 2	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 2	Parent 2	Parent 1	Parent 1
Parent 1 6:00PM		Parent 2 6PM		Parent 1 6 PM		
Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 2	Parent 2	Parent 2	Parent 2
		Parent 2 6PM				
Parent 2	Parent 1	Parent 1	Parent 2	Parent 2	Parent 1	Parent 1
Parent 1 6:00PM		Parent 2 6PM		Parent 1 6 PM		

D. Teenager: Age 14 to 18

Parents shall continue to follow the established schedule, but make reasonable accommodation for the teenager’s participation in academic, athletic, extracurricular and social activities or employment.

As a result, the teenager may spend less than equal time with one parent. However, the teenager must spend at least ten waking hours per week with each parent.

E. 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 for a determination, for example, by filing a motion with a request for a temporary parenting plan order.

F. Summer Schedule

During summer break from school, parents shall follow the standard parenting schedule.

Each parent is responsible for any daycare, babysitting or supervision expenses during the exercise of their extended summer companionship, unless parents have already arranged, and agreed upon, daycare, babysitting, or supervisory providers. Any parent taking a vacation with the child(ren) shall do so during their week of companionship.

Summer school necessary for the child(ren) to pass to the next grade, or as recommended by the appropriate school official, must be attended, and official notice of such requirement must be shared between the parents. In the event a parent elects to exercise their companionship time during summer school, they shall be responsible to make sure that the child(ren) attends summer school as necessary.

G. Spring Break and Winter Break

Parents shall continue to follow their established schedule, and no changes are needed unless a parent is taking a vacation with the child(ren).

H. Vacation

Absent special circumstances, starting at the age of 2, each parent is entitled to two 10-day periods of uninterrupted vacation time with the child(ren) each year. This vacation time can occur in the summer or spring break for school-aged children, or at any time for younger children. The parent wishing to take vacation time with the child(ren) must notify the other parent at least 60 days before the proposed vacation dates. This vacation time shall not interfere with school schedules. For any vacation travel, each parent must provide the other parent with information about the destination, times of arrival and departure, and method of travel.

In case of a conflict in schedules, Parent 1’s choice shall prevail in even-numbered years and Parent 2’s choice shall prevail in odd-numbered years. Vacations shall not conflict with the holiday schedule.

Vacations take precedence over the normal weekly schedule but not holidays or days of special meaning.

I. Days of Special Meaning

Child’s Birthday: The child’s birthday shall be spent with the parent who has regularly scheduled parenting time on that day.

Mother’s Day and Father’s Day: Unless otherwise specifically agreed upon or ordered by the Court, Mother’s Day shall always be spent with the mother, and Father’s Day shall always be spent with the father. Unless the parties agree otherwise, the time shall be from 9:00AM to 8:00PM. The children shall spend the rest of the weekend with the parent who would otherwise be entitled to companionship that weekend under these rules.

Other: Parents are strongly encouraged to agree on division of time concerning other days of special meaning that are important to their individual families.

Mother’s Day and Father’s Day shall take precedence and priority over the standard schedule and vacations.

J. Holiday Parenting Time

Parents are encouraged to modify holiday companionship by agreement to reflect the customs and traditions of their family.

Holiday	Even-Numbered Years	Odd-Numbered Years	Times
Easter	Parent 1	Parent 2	10:00AM to 7:00PM
Thanksgiving	Parent 2	Parent 1	9AM Thursday to 9:00AM Friday
Christmas Eve	Parent 2	Parent 1	6:00PM on 12/23 to 9:00PM on 12/24

Christmas Day	Parent 1	Parent 2	9:00PM on 12/24 to 9:00AM on 12/26

The holiday schedule takes precedence over the normal weekly schedule and vacations.

II. Rules Governing Companionship Time

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

A. Exchanges and Transportation

Unless otherwise agreed or ordered by the Court, the parent completing his or her parenting time shall be responsible for taking the children to the agreed upon exchange location and shall not be required to wait longer than 30 minutes for the other parent to appear.

Both parents shall, to the best of their ability, prepare the child(ren) physically and emotionally for all companionship contact.

Any person transporting the child(ren) for companionship periods established under these rules must possess a valid driver's license, and all child(ren) shall be properly restrained in the manner required by law during such transport.

B. Illness

The parents are expected to follow the parenting time schedule despite any illness of a child, unless both parents agree that this would not be medically advisable. Medications and instructions for special care shall travel with the child. A child who is confined to bed rest pursuant to a doctor's instructions is presumed too ill for parenting time exchanges to take place. Any parenting time that is missed due to the illness of a child shall be made up the following week or as the parties may mutually agree.

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

Parents may communicate with the child(ren) during the other parent's scheduled parenting time, at least twice a week, but no later than 8:00PM or as otherwise agreed.

Each parent shall encourage free communication between the child(ren) 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(ren), and shall further do everything in their power to encourage others to refrain from similar conduct. Companionship time shall not be used by either parent to check on the other parent. Neither parent shall interrogate the child(ren) during or following the companionship time as a means to gather information regarding the other parent or activities of the other parent.

E. Use of Alcohol or Drugs

During their 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(ren), including disciplinary matters.

G. School Issues

Each parent must provide time for the child(ren) to study and complete homework assignments, papers or other school-assigned projects, even if the completion of this work interferes with the parent's plans with the child(ren).

H. 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.

Scheduled periods of parenting time shall not be delayed or denied because a child has other scheduled activities (with friends, work, lessons, sports, etc.). It is the responsibility of the parents to discuss activities important to the child(ren) in advance, including time, dates, cost, and transportation needs, so that the child(ren) are not deprived of activities and maintaining friendships. The parent who has the child(ren) during the time of scheduled activities is responsible for transportation, attendance, and/or other arrangements. Parents shall try to agree on the child(ren)'s activities and shall attempt to not unfairly affect the other parent's parenting time.