

Effective January 1, 2026

LOCAL PARENTING PLAN AND COMPANIONSHIP SCHEDULE
Wood County Court of Common Pleas
Domestic Relations Division / Juvenile Division

Parenting time is a time for children to enjoy companionship with each parent. Parents can effectively use this time by spending time with their children, developing a hobby, teaching them skills and helping them meet friends in the neighborhood.

If a child indicates a 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, 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 and/or file a motion with the court. As uncomfortable as this issue may be for a parent, this issue should not go unresolved.

IT IS THE AFFIRMATIVE DUTY OF THE PARENT IN POSSESSION OF THE CHILD TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT HIS OR HER CHILD GOES FOR THE PARENTING TIME PERIOD.

This Parenting Plan and Companionship Schedule is based upon two guiding principles:

- 1.) The child's age/development;
- 2.) Predictability for both the parents and the child.

Meaningful contact between the children and both parents is better for the child's wellbeing.

IF THE COURT ORDER OR DECREE INDICATES THAT THE COURT SCHEDULE IS THE ORDER FOR PARENTING TIME/ACCESS, THEN THE ORDER OF THE COURT IS THE FOLLOWING: PARENTING TIME SHALL TAKE PLACE AT SUCH TIMES AND PLACES AS THE PARTIES CAN AGREE. This shall not be less than:

1. **Weekends.** Beginning on a specific date (_____), every other weekend from Friday night at 6:00 p.m. until Sunday night at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Mid-week.**

In addition to alternating weekends as defined above, the child(ren) shall spend a minimum of parenting time as follows:

For children under the age of 5 years of age, parenting time shall be at least two days each week from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. If the parents are unable to agree, then parenting time shall be each Tuesday and Thursday.

For children over the age of 5 years of age, parenting time shall be on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. until Thursday when school starts or when school is not in session at 8:00 a.m.

If there is more than one child, all of the parenting time shall be in accordance with the eldest child as outlined above.

3. **Summer parenting time schedule.** Parents shall have parenting time on a week-on/week-off basis. Summer break is defined as the Friday following the last day of school with the parent's weekend starting the first week of parenting time and rotating until the last Friday before the start of school.

During summer parenting time, routine mid-week visitation shall not occur. There shall be no abatement of child support during summer visitation. Vacations shall be scheduled with consideration for child's job or sport schedules.

Summer school that is necessary for the child to pass to the next grade must be attended.

4. **Holidays, Days of Special Meaning, and School Breaks shall be exercised as outlined below.**

HOLIDAYS, DAYS OF SPECIAL MEANING, AND SCHOOL BREAKS

Unless otherwise specified, the Petitioner/Petitioner 1/Plaintiff shall be designated as "Parent 1", and the Respondent/Petitioner 2/Defendant shall be designated as "Parent 2."

Holiday	Even Years	Odd Years	Days and Times - As Agreed or as Follows
MLK Day	Parent 1	Parent 2	6 pm Sunday to 6 pm Monday
President's Day	Parent 2	Parent 1	6 pm Sunday to 6 pm Monday
Easter Sunday	Parent 1	Parent 2	All others: 9 am to 6 pm
Memorial Day	Parent 2	Parent 1	6 pm Sunday to 6 pm Monday
Mother's Day	Mother or Parent 1	Mother or Parent 2	9 am to 6 pm
Father's Day	Father or Parent 2	Father or Parent 1	9 am to 6 pm
Fourth of July	Parent 1	Parent 2	6 pm July 3 rd to 6 pm July 4 th
Labor Day	Parent 2	Parent 1	6 pm Sunday to 6 pm Monday
Halloween	Parent 2	Parent 1	Day per parent's community, 5 pm – 9 pm
Thanksgiving	Parent 1	Parent 2	6 pm Wednesday to 6 pm Thursday
Christmas Eve	Parent 2	Parent 1	6 pm December 23 rd to 9 pm December 24 th
Christmas Day	Parent 1	Parent 2	9 pm December 24 th to 9 pm December 25 th

School Breaks: For School Aged Children (Kindergarten and above)

NOTE: The schedule for Winter Break coincides with the holiday schedule for Christmas Eve/Day.

- A. Christmas / Winter Break: The break shall be divided into equal number of calendar days, inclusive of weekends, based upon the school district within which the child resides.
 - a. In even-numbered years, Parent 2 shall have the first half of the Christmas / Winter Break and Parent 1 shall have the second half of the Christmas / Winter Break.
 - b. In odd-numbered years, Parent 1 shall have the first half of the Christmas / Winter Break and Parent 2 shall have the second half of the Christmas / Winter Break.
 - c. The parties shall follow the Local Parenting Time Schedule for holidays that fall during Christmas / Winter Break.
- B. Spring Break: In the even-numbered years, Parent 1 shall have the entire Spring Break. In the odd-numbered years, Parent 2 shall have the entire Spring Break.
- C. Each break begins at 7 p.m. on the last day of school before the break and ends at 7 p.m. the night before school resumes. It is understood that not all the schools of children in the same family will necessarily have the same break, so each child should begin and end their break according to their own school's calendar unless parties agree otherwise.
- D. Children not yet in mandatory education (kindergarten or above) do not follow the break schedule unless they have older, school-aged siblings who will be going for the break. If their older, school-aged siblings attend schools with different break schedules, they should follow the schedule of the sibling closest to them in age unless parties agree otherwise.
- E. Child's Birthday: The child's birthday shall be spent with Parent 1 in the even-numbered years and with Parent 2 in the odd-numbered years. If the parties cannot agree, the time is 10 am to 8 pm for a child not in school on the birthday, and 5 pm to 9 pm for a child in school on the birthday. Siblings should attend the birthday event. The other parent can celebrate on another date.

Priority: In the event holidays or days of special meaning, as listed below, should fall on the same day or overlap, priority shall be given in the following order:

- a. Birthday of child;
- b. Holidays;
- c. School breaks;
- d. Regularly scheduled parenting time.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Both parents are encouraged to attend all child(ren)'s activities and each parent is entitled by law to equal access to the student activities of their child(ren), unless limited by court order. Regardless of the parenting time schedule, the children's participation in extracurricular activities, school-related or otherwise, shall continue uninterrupted. It shall be the responsibility of the parent in physical possession at the time of the activity to provide the physical and/or cost of transportation to these activities. Each parent shall timely provide the other parent with notice of all extracurricular activities, school-related or otherwise, in which the children participate, schedules of all extracurricular activities and the name of the activity leader (including address and telephone number if reasonably available).

Scheduled parenting time periods shall not be delayed or denied because a child has other scheduled activities (routine appointments, lessons, sports, etc.) If the activities are regularly scheduled, they should be agreed upon in advance.

Vacation parenting time shall take precedence over extracurricular activities. The parents shall endeavor to avoid the child(ren) missing scheduled activities.

WAITING: The children and the parent in possession of the children have no duty to wait for the other parent for more than 30 minutes after the scheduled parenting time. A parent who is late forfeits parenting time for that period, unless other arrangements are made.

CANCELLATION OF PARENTING TIME: Either parent must give 24-hour advance notice of intent NOT to exercise parenting time. Unless prior arrangements are made, a parent who does not exercise the parenting time forfeits that time. Failure to exercise scheduled time is upsetting to the child(ren). A parent who continually fails to exercise this right may have parenting time modified and may be subject to other legal remedies.

ILLNESS: No schedule can adequately spell out what should be common sense when dealing with an ill or injured child. If a child is ill, requiring medication or consultation with a doctor/dentist, each parent must notify the other as soon as possible. If the child becomes ill prior to a scheduled parenting time period, the parent must contact the other parent and discuss the advisability of parenting time while considering the best interest of the child as the primary concern.

If the parents agree that there will be parenting time, each parent must provide written instructions and sufficient medication for the parenting time period. Each parent shall notify the other parent if the child's condition worsens or does not improve as expected.

If one child is ill and does not participate in the parenting time period, other child(ren) shall enjoy their regularly scheduled parenting time period.

Each parent shall seek emergency treatment, if necessary, for the child(ren) during his/her period of parenting time.

Each parent shall communicate, in writing, any allergic or chronic condition of the minor child(ren), together with the medication and recommended treatment.

If the possessory parent determines that the child(ren) needs immediate medical treatment during a time of scheduled parenting time, the parent should give 24-hour notice, if possible, so that appropriate plans can be made by the other parent. However, if more than twenty-four hours are missed due to non-emergency and/or non-critical illness, then any missed visitation shall be made up within 60 days.

TRAVEL: A parent who takes the child(ren) out of town and overnight, prior to travel shall provide a general itinerary to the other parent, including dates, method of travel (including name of airline and flight number or other such detailed information depending on the mode of travel), destinations, addresses, and telephone numbers. In the event that either party decides to change their destination for an out-of-town travel, that parent shall provide the other parent with the destination, times of arrival and departure, and method of travel as soon as reasonably possible.

MOVING: Either parent must notify the other parent, and then also notify the Court, in writing at least 30 days in advance of their intent to change their residence. Each parent shall provide a current address and telephone number to the other parent, at all times. If the parents are more than 150 miles apart after the move, unless the parties agree otherwise, each shall comply with this Court's Long Distance Parenting Time Schedule without further order of the court. If the residential parent moves or gives notice of intent to move the child away from the area, the non-residential parent may file a motion objecting to the move and the Court will address the issue.

If the parties are subject to a shared parenting plan, then the parties shall follow the terms of their shared parenting plan regarding relocation.

ACCESS TO RECORDS:

- (1) Both parents are entitled by law to equal access to their children's daycare, school, and medical records unless limited by Court order.
- (2) The residential parent is responsible for taking all necessary action for all record keeping purposes to use the child's birth or adopted name only.
- (3) **School Records:** The residential parent must list the non-residential parent as a parent of the child and must authorize the school to release to the non-residential parent any and all information concerning the child. The residential parent also must provide the non-residential parent with any and all passwords necessary to

access the child's academic and extracurricular information online. The child should not be used to deliver the information.

Subject to R.C. 3125.16 and 3319.321(F) and unless otherwise indicated in the Entry or parenting plan, both parents are entitled to access to any record related to the child(ren). **Any keeper of a record who knowingly fails to comply with permitting record access is in contempt of Court.**

- (4) **School Activities Access Notice:** Subject to R.C. 3319.321(F) and unless otherwise indicated in the Entry or parenting plan, both parents are entitled access to any student activity related to the child(ren). **Any school employee or official who knowingly fails to comply with permitting school activities is in contempt of Court.**
- (5) **Medical Records/Consultation:** The residential parent shall, upon request by the non-residential parent, immediately comply with whatever action is required, including the signing of a full release, to provide access to any medical, dental, hospital, surgical, optometric, or mental health records of the minor child. Both parents are entitled to equal access to their child(ren)'s records, unless limited by Court order.

CLOTHING: The residential parent shall provide sufficient appropriate clean clothing for every parenting time period. The non-residential parent shall return all items sent with the child immediately after the parenting time period. If there is a need to send special clothing, the non-residential parent must notify the residential parent at least 2 days in advance of the parenting time. The residential parent is under no obligation to comply with the request if the child does not have the type of clothing requested. Clothing belongs to the child and shall be available to the child at the child's option.

Each parent shall ensure that all appropriate sporting equipment shall be exchanged for the child to participate in sporting events. Sporting equipment belongs to the child and shall be available to the child when appropriate for sporting events.

TRANSPORTATION: It is the Court's intent that each parent provides half of the transportation. The parent who receives the child(ren) shall be responsible to transport the child(ren). Any adult well known to the child who transports shall be a licensed, insured driver, shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and shall follow all traffic laws, including child restraint and seat belt laws.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS: It is the parent's responsibility, not the child(ren)'s, to make all parenting time arrangements. It is not the child's responsibility to mediate or become involved in parental differences over parenting times, dates or activities. If the parties are unable to communicate with each other, then they are encouraged to use online communication applications. The best solution may be to seek professional help to improve their ability to communicate for the best interest of the child(ren).

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILD(REN): Each parent has the right to communicate with the child(ren) as often as the parents agree. If the parents do not agree, then child(ren) shall be allowed to communicate by video/telephone with either parent a minimum of twice per week. In addition, the parties may agree to allow texting/email access to both parents.

Note that due to ongoing, rapid changes in technology and social media, not every conceivable situation can be anticipated or addressed. However, the Court strongly recommends parents consider the age and maturity of their child(ren) and cooperate to make joint decisions regarding the purchasing and use of cell phones and any other technology which may affect communication between a parent and a child. Any likely areas of dispute should be discussed in advance and written into the Court order.

Regarding discipline, a parent may rescind the use of a child's cell phone or other technology as a form of discipline, however, this shall not interfere with the child's regular communication with the other parent.

DISCIPLINE: Parents should communicate to ensure consistent discipline between the households. Parents need to discuss behavior problems and solutions with each other as the need arises. If the parents disagree over the appropriate discipline or solutions to the child(ren)'s behavior, they should seek the assistance of a professional.

NON-COMPLIANCE: Any of the rights or responsibilities outlined in this schedule may be enforced by the Court after the filing of an appropriate motion by either party. A parent may not withhold parenting rights because the other party does not obey a court order.

A parent who willfully fails to comply with this schedule may be found guilty of contempt of court, the penalty for which is a fine not to exceed \$250.00, and a jail sentence for an initial contempt not to exceed 30 days. The Court may also assess attorney fees, court costs, transportation costs, and make-up parenting time in addition to any other remedy at law. Failure to obey court orders may also be the basis for a reallocation of parental rights.

CURB-SIDE EXCHANGE: If Ordered this prohibits the parent from entering upon the property of the other parent for exchange of the children. The parent relinquishing possession remains in the home while the other parent remains in the car and there is no communication between the parents. The parent who is picking up the child(ren) is to park in front of the home at the scheduled time and honk the horn once to notify the other parent to send the child(ren) to the car. Children should be prepared for all scheduled parenting time exchanges.

Magistrate Jill Varnes-Richardson
Magistrate Michelle L. Christie
Magistrate Mollie Hojnicki-Mathieson

Judge Matthew L. Reger
Judge Mary "Molly" L. Mack
Judge Joel M. Kuhlman
Judge David E. Woessner