

**SAGINAW COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT**  
**STANDARD PARENTING TIME SCHEDULE 2016**

Both parties shall work towards reasonable parenting time during any periods of time which are mutually agreeable to the parties. If an agreement cannot be reached regarding the dates and times for parenting time, then the parties shall be bound by the schedule stated below

**WHEN PARTIES LIVE WITHIN 100 MILES FROM EACH OTHER**

- In this case, one of the parties has primary physical custody. Therefore Plaintiff/Defendant (circle one) shall have parenting time with the minor child(ren) on alternating weekends from 6:00 p.m. Friday to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, beginning the first Friday upon entry of the order.
- Custody and Parenting time shall be as stated in the order.

**SCHEDULE FOR HOLIDAYS**  
**AND PERIODS OF EXTENDED PARENTING TIME**

**Please note that any exceptions, which are set out in the order, take precedence over the standard holiday/extended parenting time, set out below**

\*The Holiday and Extended Parenting Time schedule, including Summer, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring break, does not change the alternating weekend schedule, and any ordered midweek schedule. Those weekends and midweeks resume at the conclusion of the Holiday and Extended Parenting Time schedule. **BOTH PARTIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING A WRITTEN CALENDAR OF THEIR WEEKENDS, AND ANY ENTITLED MIDWEEKS, THROUGHOUT EACH YEAR, KNOWING THAT THOSE DAYS AND TIMES WHICH FALL DURING THE HOLIDAY AND EXTENDED PARENTING TIME SCHEDULE ARE FORFEITED.**

\*If a party's weekend falls on Memorial Day or Labor Day, then the weekend extends to 6:00 p.m. Monday.

1. The following holiday schedule takes precedence over any other parenting time schedule:

In **odd** numbered years, Plaintiff shall have the minor child(ren) on the following holidays: Thanksgiving and child(ren)'s birthdays. Halloween (if age 12 and under only).

In **even** numbered years, Defendant shall have the minor child(ren) on the following holidays: Thanksgiving and child(ren)'s birthdays. Halloween (if age 12 and under only).

**Hours for holidays are as follows:**

\*Thanksgiving – 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday (the day before the holiday) until 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday following Thanksgiving.

\*Halloween – 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. (if age 12 and under only).

\*Mother’s Day – each year, the Mother shall have the minor child(ren) on Mother’s Day from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. If neither party is the Mother of the child(ren), this provision does not apply.

\*Father’s Day - each year, the Father shall have the minor child(ren) on Father’s Day from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. If neither party is the Father of the child(ren), this provision does not apply.

\*Children’s birthdays – If the child(ren)’s birthday falls during the summer, falls on a weekend, or on a day when there is no scheduled school, the birthday times shall be from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. If the child(ren)’s birthday falls on a scheduled school day, the birthday times shall be from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Include all the children on each child’s birthday. If a child’s birthday falls on a holiday (designated above), the holiday takes precedence over the birthday.

2. Periods of Extended Parenting Time

A. Summer

Summer parenting time shall be rotated week on week off, starting at 6:00 p.m. the first Friday after school ends (If the last day of school is on Friday, then Summer break shall begin on that day) until 6:00 p.m. the Friday before school resumes. If there are no school- age children and/or if the child(ren) are home-schooled, then Summer break starts at 6:00 p.m. the first Friday in June and ends at 6:00 p.m. the last Friday in August. Plaintiff shall have the minor child(ren) first in **even** numbered years and Defendant shall have the child(ren) first in **odd** numbered years. If any of the children are in regular school, during the school year, then all of the children shall go as per the time allotted for the Summer school break.

B. Christmas School Vacation

In **odd** numbered years, Defendant shall have the minor child(ren) the first portion of the Christmas school vacation for six overnights and Plaintiff shall have the minor child(ren) the remaining portion. In **even** numbered years, Plaintiff shall have the minor child(ren) the first portion of the Christmas school vacation for six overnights and Defendant shall have the remaining portion. If this schedule results in either party not having the minor child(ren) for the entire portion of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (combined), then that party shall be entitled to have the minor

child(ren) from 3:00 p.m. Christmas Day until 9:00 p.m. Christmas Day, but that party is responsible for all of the transportation to and from the other party's residence.

Christmas school vacation is defined as 6:00 p.m. the last day of school until 6:00 p.m. the day before school resumes.

If there are no school-age children and/or if the child(ren) are home-schooled, then Christmas break begins at 6:00 p.m. December 20<sup>th</sup> and ends at 6:00 p.m. January 1st. However, if any of the children are in regular school, during the school year, then all of the children shall go as per the time allotted for the Christmas school break.

C. Spring School Break

In **even** numbered years, Defendant shall have the minor child(ren) the entire Spring school break. In **odd** numbered years, Plaintiff shall have the minor child(ren) the entire Spring school break.

Spring school break is defined as 6:00 p.m. the last day of school until 6:00 p.m. the day before school resumes.

If there are no school-age children and/or the child(ren) are home-schooled, then Spring break begins at 6:00 p.m. the Saturday before Easter and ends at 6:00 p.m. the following Sunday. In **odd** numbered years, Plaintiff's parenting time shall begin at 6:00 p.m. the Saturday before Easter. In **even** numbered years, Defendant's parenting time shall begin at 6:00 p.m. the Saturday before Easter. However, if any of the children are in regular school, during the school year, then all of the children shall go as per the time allotted for the Spring school break.

**WHEN THE PARTIES LIVE OVER 100 MILES FROM EACH OTHER**

1. September through May Plaintiff/Defendant (circle one) shall be entitled to have the minor child(ren) for one weekend every month, beginning 6:00 p.m. the second Friday of the month until 6:00 p.m. Sunday.
2. Summer parenting time shall be defined as beginning at 6:00 p.m. the first Friday after school ends (If the last day of school ends on Friday, then the Summer break shall begin on that day) until 6:00 p.m. the last Friday before school resumes. In **even** numbered years, Plaintiff shall have the minor child(ren) the first portion of the Summer school break, which shall begin at 6:00 p.m. the first Friday after school ends, and continuing six weeks out, ending at 6:00 p.m. Friday. Defendant shall have the minor child(ren) the remaining portion of the Summer school break. In **odd** numbered years, Defendant shall have the minor child(ren) the first portion of the Summer school break, which shall begin at 6:00 p.m. the first Friday after school ends, and continuing six weeks out, ending 6:00

p.m. on Friday. Plaintiff shall have the minor child(ren) the remaining portion of the Summer school break.

If there are no school-age children and/or if the child(ren) are home-schooled, then Summer parenting time begins at 6:00 p.m. the first Friday in June and ends at 6:00 p.m. the last Friday in August. However, if any of the children are in regular school, during the school year, then all of the children shall go as per the time allotted for Summer school break.

3. Plaintiff shall have the minor child(ren) for Thanksgiving in **even** numbered years, and Thanksgiving parenting time will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday and end at 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Defendant shall have the minor child(ren) for Thanksgiving in **odd** numbered years.
4. Christmas school vacation

In **even** numbered years, Plaintiff shall have the minor child(ren) the entire Christmas school vacation. In **odd** numbered years, Defendant shall have the minor child(ren) the entire Christmas school vacation.

Christmas school vacation is defined as 6:00 p.m. the last day of school until 6:00 p.m. the day before school resumes.

If there are no school-age children and/or if the child(ren) are home-schooled, then Christmas break begins at 6:00 p.m. December 20th and ends at 6:00 p.m. January 1<sup>st</sup>. However, if any of the children are in regular school, during the school year, then all of the children shall go as per the time allotted for the Christmas vacation.

5. Spring School Break

In **odd** numbered years, Plaintiff shall have the minor child(ren) the entire Spring school break. In **even** numbered years Defendant shall have the minor child(ren) the entire Spring school break.

Spring school break is defined as 6:00 p.m. the last day of school until 6:00 p.m. the day before school resumes.

If there are no school-age children and/or if the child(ren) are home-schooled, then Spring break begins at 6:00 p.m. the Saturday before Easter and ends at 6:00 p.m. the Sunday following Easter.

## **PARENTING TIME REQUIREMENTS**

**Please note that any exceptions, which are set out in the order, take precedence over any of the provisions in the following parenting time requirements:**

### **Transportation/Exchanges**

1. Transportation is to be provided (and paid for) by the party whose parenting time is beginning under the terms of the Order. The other party then obtains the minor child(ren) when his/her parenting time begins. The party who will be exercising parenting time shall pick up the minor child(ren) at the other party's residence.
2. Either party may designate a fully licensed, and insured adult, who is not under the influence of any intoxicant and/or mood-altering substance, to transport the minor child(ren). The child(ren) must be familiar with that adult. Identification may be requested prior to release of the minor child(ren).
3. The parenting time schedule shall be exercised in a prompt manner. In the event of an unforeseen circumstance, a thirty (30) minute delay is allowed for picking up and returning the minor child(ren). If at any time one of the parties will not be exercising his/her parenting time with the minor child(ren), then that party shall give at least 24 hours prior notice to the other party that he/she is unable to exercise parenting time.
4. Car seats must be used, and both parties must provide a car seat, in compliance with State Law.
5. When transporting the minor child(ren) (for parenting time exchanges) via airlines, the rules of the Airline must be followed. The flight schedule (including flight numbers and times) shall be provided to the other party at least one week before the travel. Generally the nearest airport must be used to transport the minor child(ren) for parenting time exchanges. However, exceptions may be allowed by the Friend of the Court, taking into consideration such things as the rules of the Airline, whether the flight is a direct/nonstop flight or a connecting/transfer flight, and departure and arrival times. (If there is a dispute as to which airport is to be used, the Friend of the Court has the authority to resolve this disputed issue). Although transportation is to be provided (and paid for) by the party whose custody/parenting time is beginning, when air travel is used by either party for exchanges the party who is sending the children is responsible (at his/her expense) for getting the child(ren) to the airport/airlines and picking them up from the airport/airlines upon their return.
6. A general itinerary and emergency telephone number shall be provided to the other party if an out-of-town vacation is planned with the child(ren). Out of State vacations, not in conflict with parenting time schedule, are allowed. This

information shall be provided at least one week before the travel. In addition, if the airlines is used, the flight schedule (including flight numbers and times) shall be provided at least one week before the travel.

**Appointments/Activities**

1. Doctor appointments for the minor child(ren) are to be scheduled during the parenting time of the party who schedules the appointment.
2. Any medication prescribed by a doctor shall be administered consistent with doctor's orders. The medication in its prescription bottle shall be exchanged by the parties at pick-ups and drop-offs for parenting time.
3. A parent, regardless of the custody arrangement, shall not be denied access to records or information concerning his/her child(ren), unless prohibited by a protective order. Records or information include medical, dental, school records, day care provider's records, and notification of meetings regarding the child's education. 1996 PA 304, MCL 722.21; MSA 25.312(1) (SB 598).
4. The party who has the minor child(ren) for his/her custody/parenting time, pursuant to the Court Order, decides what extra-curricular activities the child(ren) will attend. However, if a party desires to have the child(ren) enrolled in, or participating in, an extra-curricular activity, then both parties must provide a signed written agreement to the Friend of the Court that they agree. In that instance, then each party must see to it that the child(ren) attends the activity when the child(ren) is in that party's care for custody/ parenting time. If at any time there is a disputed issue regarding this provision, then either party may bring a motion before the Court to decide the disputed issue.
5. It is the affirmative responsibility of each party to see that the minor child(ren)'s homework is completed in a timely manner.
6. Preschool is not deemed to be mandatory, and in a joint legal custody situation, if there is a dispute as to whether and/or where the minor child(ren) will be enrolled in preschool, this is deemed to be a joint legal decision, which must be addressed by the court, through the filing of a petition by the party who desires to enroll the child(ren) in preschool.
7. Summer school necessary for the minor child(ren) to pass to the next grade must be attended. Either party must obtain written verification from the school regarding the necessity of summer enrollment. If either party misses parenting time because of required summer school, then that party may bring a motion before the Court to decide if make up time should be granted.
8. Either party is entitled to attend school functions which are open to the public, such as extra-curricular activities, sporting events, award assemblies, concerts, parent/teacher conferences. If it is not a party's parenting time with the

child(ren), then that party is not entitled to appear at the school to see or visit the child(ren), including having lunch with the child(ren). Neither party is to appear at the school to see the child(ren) unless requested, or specifically invited, by school personnel. The Friend of the Court has the authority to resolve any disputed issues regarding whether a party is allowed to appear at the school to see the child(ren). If a party disagrees with the position of the Friend of the Court, then that party may bring a motion before the Court to decide the disputed issue.

### **Denials**

1. A denial may take place if there is a Doctor's written directive as to the amount of time or days that the minor child(ren) cannot leave the home of the party who has the minor child(ren). This written directive must be provided to the other party. Make up parenting time shall occur immediately after the time missed. The duration of make up parenting time shall be the same as the time missed. If a party denies the other party parenting time for any other reason, it is the burden of the party withholding parenting time to prove to the Court that the denial was justified.
2. Parenting time shall not be denied based upon the child(ren) being grounded.
3. Child support and parenting time are separate issues. Parenting time shall not be withheld due to non-payment of support; likewise, the payer of support shall not withhold payment of support due to denial of parenting time.

### **Protective Orders/Juvenile Court Orders**

1. Personal Protection Orders do not invalidate parenting time orders unless specifically addressed in the Personal Protection Order. Exchanges for parenting time must occur in a manner that shall not violate the Personal Protection Order (i.e. 3<sup>rd</sup> party transporters, alternate exchange location may be necessary). The Personal Protection order supersedes this parenting time schedule.
2. This parenting time schedule is suspended when the Juvenile Court has assumed jurisdiction of a matter pursuant to an abuse and/or neglect petition. The Juvenile Court Order supersedes this parenting time schedule for the life of the Juvenile Court case.

### **Miscellaneous**

1. During the pendency of divorce cases only, no unrelated significant others (boyfriend/girlfriend) are to be in the presence of the minor child(ren). This includes no overnights.
2. Unless the Court Order specifically states otherwise, each party must provide certain items for the minor child(ren) during his/her own custodial time. Those items include: car seats, clothing, beds/cribs, bedding, baby bottles, formula, baby food and diapers.

3. Outerwear, such as boots, coats, hats, and mittens, shall be shared, and returned at the conclusion of each parenting time. In addition, the child(ren)'s school backpacks, lunch boxes, and athletic equipment necessary for games/practices shall be shared, and returned at the conclusion of each parenting time.
4. The party who is not exercising parenting time shall be allowed one phone contact with the minor child(ren) for each seven consecutive day period. The one phone contact shall be no more than ten minutes per child and shall occur between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. local time (where the minor child(ren) reside). Each party must provide the other party with a phone number where he/she can be reached.
5. If there are school-age children and non-school age children, then the younger child(ren) follow the parenting time schedule of the child(ren) in school. Kindergarten or Young Fives is the first recognized school grade.
6. Neither party shall speak in a derogatory fashion about the other party, in the presence of the minor child(ren), and there shall be no negative interaction between the parties/significant others on social media. The parties/significant others are prohibited from placing any such negative comments on social media which could be viewed by anyone on social media. Each party to this case is responsible for making sure this provision is abided by.
7. Only the Orders of the Court can be enforced by the Friend of the Court, with respect to parenting time. Agreements between the parties, regardless of whether they are written or verbal, cannot be enforced by the Friend of the Court.
8. Neither party is allowed to discuss with the minor child(ren) any court matters involving the case.
9. In the event there is a dispute and the parenting time order does not address the disputed issue(s), the Friend of the Court has authority to resolve the disputed issue(s), **INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO**, the following: the distance (mileage) between the parties' homes, what items shall be provided by each party during the child(ren)'s visit, who may pick up and return the child(ren), pursuant to the Court Ordered schedule, when a parenting time schedule begins, if the Order is silent, and what child related activities either party is prohibited from engaging in during parenting time (such as hair cutting, ear piercing, unauthorized non-emergency medical treatment, etc.). If a party disagrees with the position of the Friend of the Court, then that party may bring a motion before the Court to decide the disputed issue.

*Revised 1/16*