

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION
RULE 17.0 STANDARD PARENTING TIME ORDER
(EFFECTIVE FOR CASES DECIDED AFTER MARCH 1, 2004)**

17.1 LOCAL PARENTING TIME. The following schedule is applicable to those situations where the parties live within 150 miles of each other. The primary goal of any parenting time schedule is to maintain contact between the non-residential parent and the child(ren). The optimum parenting time schedule is where the parties agree to be as flexible as possible.

17.11 Regular Parenting Time. The non-residential parent shall have parenting time on alternate weekends from Friday, 6:00 p.m. until Sunday, 6:00 p.m.; however, if the preceding Friday or the following Monday of that weekend is a holiday during which the non-residential parent is scheduled to have parenting time, then parenting time will be expanded to include the holiday by beginning Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. (if Friday is the holiday) or shall extend through Monday to 6:00 P.M. (if Monday is the holiday).

The non-residential parent will have mid-week parenting time of 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening every week. At the discretion of the non-residential parent, if he or she has the facilities and is able to take the child to school on Thursday morning this parenting time period may extend all night Wednesday and the non-residential parent must provide transportation and deliver the child to school on Thursday morning or to the residence of the residential parent or to daycare by 9:00 a.m. Thursday morning.

17.12 Holidays. For the following listed holidays:

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| (1) Martin Luther King Day | (3) President's Day |
| (2) Easter or Passover | (4) Memorial Day |
| (5) July 4th | (6) Veteran's Day |
| (7) Labor Day | |

the parenting time schedule shall be:

For the years ending with an odd number, the non-residential parent shall have parenting time on the above odd numbered holidays, and the residential parent shall have parenting time on the above even numbered holidays. For the years ending with an even number, the non-residential parent shall have parenting time on the above even numbered holidays, and the residential parent shall have parenting time on the above odd numbered holidays. Parenting time shall be from 6:00 p.m. the day before the holiday to 6:00 p.m. of the holiday except that with notice to the other parent, the July 4th return may be delayed until the following morning at 9:00 a.m.; however, where a non-residential parent's work schedule would not permit this parenting time, the holiday parenting time will be restricted to the hours the non-residential parent can actually spend with the child(ren) between 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. (except July 4th as noted above) unless notice is given that the child(ren) will be staying with grandparents during the holiday parenting time. Holidays shall take precedence over regular weekend parenting time.

17.13 Days of Special Meaning. Mother's Day shall always be with the children's mother and Father's Day Shall always be with the Children's father, **regardless of the weekend parenting time schedule.** If the parties cannot agree, the times shall be 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Child(ren)'s birthdays shall always be with the mother in years ending with even numbers and always with the father in years ending with odd numbers. The non-residential parent must provide one week's notice of the intent to have parenting time for the birthday. If the parties cannot agree, the parenting time shall be 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. if the birth falls on a non-school day for the child and a non-working day for the

designated parent. If it is the child's school day or the designated parent's work day, the parenting time shall be 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. The child(ren)'s birthday parenting time Schedules take precedent over all other designated parenting times. Brothers and sisters shall be permitted to attend the birthday event.

17.14 Extended Holiday Periods. There are certain holiday periods where school age children receive additional time of from school during spring breaks, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

For the years ending in even numbers, the non-residential parent shall have, and for the years ending in odd numbers, the residential parent shall have parenting time as follows:

(1) Thanksgiving break: Wednesday before Thanksgiving from 6:00 p.m. to Friday after Thanksgiving at 6:00 p.m.

(2) Spring break: 6:00 p.m. the first day of the break through 6:00 p.m. of the last day before school vacation ends. If the child is not of school age, the school schedule for the school district in which, the residential parent resides shall determine the Spring break dates.

17.15 Christmas Parenting Time. For the years ending in even numbers, the non-residential parent shall have, and for the years ending in odd numbers, the residential parent shall have Christmas parenting time from 6:00 P.M. on the last day of school before Christmas break until 2:00 p.m. on December 25.

For the years ending in odd numbers, the non-residential parent shall have, and for years ending in even numbers, the residential parent shall have Christmas parenting time from 2:00 p.m. on December 25 until 6:00 P.M. on January 1.

If the child is not of school age, the school schedule for the school district in which the residential parent resides shall determine the Christmas break dates.

17.16 Summer Vacations. The non-residential parent shall have the opportunity to have the child(ren) for five (5) weeks during the summer vacation which may be exercised in two blocks of no more than three weeks separated by at least 14 days. During summer vacation there will be reciprocal weekends and mid-week parenting time for the residential parent. Provided also that the parties shall each have two weeks of uninterrupted parenting time with the children without parenting time with the other.

Both the residential and the non-residential parent shall provide the other party with notice of the weeks during which he or she intends to exercise summer vacation with the minor child(ren) on or before April 15 of that year. The non-residential parent's choice of vacation has priority over the residential parent's choice **unless** the residential parent's vacation is during a mandatory shut-down of that party's employer.

17.17 Transportation.

The non-residential parent is responsible for all transportation associated with midweek parenting time. The transportation associated with all other parenting times shall be equally divided between the parents as follows: The child(ren) shall be picked up at the home of the residential parent by the non-residential parent, or a designated driver, at the beginning of the non-residential parent's time. The residential parent, or a designated driver, shall pick up the child(ren) from the non-residential parent's home at the beginning of the residential parent's time.

**17.2 LONG DISTANCE PARENTING TIME
(FOR PARTIES RESIDING OVER 150 MILES APART)**

The intent of long distance parenting time (over 150 miles) is the same as when the parties are located reasonably close to one another and that is to maintain contact between the child(ren) and the non-residential parent. Both parties are encouraged to be as flexible as possible concerning parenting time.

17.21 Extended Holiday Periods. The non-residential parent shall have parenting time:

(A) Thanksgiving: From 6:00 p.m. Wednesday (before Thanksgiving Day) to Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

(B) Spring Break: From 6:00 p.m. of the first day of the break to 6:00 p.m. of the day before school starts.

(C) Christmas Break: From 3:00 P.M. Christmas Day (or Hanukkah) to 6:00 p.m. on the last day before school resumes after New Year's Day.

If the child is not of school age, the school schedule for the school district in which the residential parent resides shall determine the Spring and Christmas break dates.

17.22 Summer Vacation. The non-residential parent shall have seven (7) weeks of summer parenting time with the child(ren) which shall be exercised at the discretion of the non-residential parent in two blocks of not more than four weeks separated by at least two weeks. During summer vacation there will be reciprocal weekends for the residential parent if travel time is less than six hours (round trip). In any event, with school age children, the child shall be returned to the residential parent at least one week prior to the start of school. The only exception would be where the residential parent's vacation is controlled by mandatory shut-down of employer's operations. The non-residential parent shall provide the residential parent with notice of the weeks during which he or she intends to exercise summer vacation with the minor child(ren) on or before April 15 of that year.

17.23 Additional Vacation Times. The non-residential parent may exercise additional parenting time with the child(ren) as follows:

(A) Where the travel time does not involve more than six hours (round trip), the non-residential parent may exercise each year one period of parenting time for a three day weekend during a holiday otherwise designated for a non-residential parent under Rule 17.12 beginning at 4:30 p.m. the day before the first day of the three day weekend to 8:30 p.m. of the last day of the three day weekend. The non-residential parent must provide a thirty day notice of intent to exercise this parenting time.

(B) If the non-residential parent elects to travel to the area where the child(ren) normally reside, the non-residential parent may exercise parenting time pursuant to Rule 17.13 except the following times would apply:

(1) Mother'S/Father'S Day: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(2) Non-residential Parent's Birthday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Non-school days); 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (school days); (if both parents have same birth date, they are to alternate).

(3) Child(ren)'s Birthday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (non-school days), 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (school days).

(C) If the non-residential parent intends to exercise this additional parenting time, fourteen (14) days notice must be given to the residential parent. Unless the order or decree specifies otherwise, the non-residential parent shall be responsible for the costs of transportation for any parenting time exercised under this Section 17.23.

17.24 Transportation. Where the parties reside more than 150 miles apart, the parties will divide the hours of transportation and the expense as evenly as possible.

17.3 PARENTING TIME WITH INFANTS (AGE BIRTH TO 18 MONTHS)

The court recognizes that parenting time with infants raises special concerns for the parties because of the care, skill and needs of the infant. During this most formative of times it is important that both parents are able to observe, share and participate in activities with the infant. The court encourages the non-residential parent to have frequent short visits with the infant at the beginning, with more and longer visits as the infant grows and the comfort level for the infant and parent increases.

17.31 **Birth to twelve months.** The non-residential parent shall have parenting time from 2:00 P.M. until 6:00 p.m. on Sundays and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, every week.

17.32 **Twelve months to 18 months.** The non-residential parent shall have parenting time from 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays, and from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, every week.

17.33 **After 18 months.** Regular parenting time schedule applies.

17.34 **Special Situations.** If the parties have an infant who is younger than 18 months of age and either parent does not believe this infant schedule is appropriate in their circumstances then, upon the request of either parent, the court will schedule an oral hearing for the purpose of establishing a reasonable parenting time schedule. Said hearing will be scheduled for 30 minutes, allowing each parent 15 minutes to present his/her case.

17.4 GENERAL RULES (APPLICABLE TO ALL PARENTING TIME ORDERS)

(A) **Notice.** Parents have a right to visit their child(ren) and the child(ren) has the right to prepare for and expect a visit. Notice of the intent not to visit shall be given 24 hours in advance. The child(ren) must only be available for 30 minutes past the scheduled pick-up unless prior arrangements have been made by the parties.

(B) **Special situations.** When the residential parent will be gone overnight regardless of the age of the child(ren), the non-residential parent shall be afforded the opportunity to exercise overnight parenting time.

(C) **Telephone.** Each parent shall have telephone contact of reasonable frequency and duration with the child(ren) while in the physical custody of the other parent. Each parent shall provide the other with appropriate telephone numbers.

(D) **Address.** Each parent shall provide the other parent and the Court with any change in residential address promptly and in accordance with the Notice of Relocation required by the Ohio Revised Code.