

STATE OF MICHIGAN
36TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN VAN BUREN COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT

PARENTING POLICY
August 16, 1996

In order for a child to successfully adjust to the divorce of his or her parents, it is essential that the child continue to have a stable and nurturing relationship with both parents. The Van Buren County Circuit Court and the Office of the Friend of the Court strongly encourage parents to agree to a schedule that will ensure that the best interests of the child(ren) are met. In circumstances where the parents have failed to reach such an agreement, and the court has determined that reasonable parenting time is in the best interests of the minor child(ren) the following policy shall be implemented.

The applicable policy shall be determined by the age of the eldest child in the family. The policy contained below applies where parents live within 150 miles of each other.

A. PARENTING SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF THREE YEARS

Where the eldest child is under the age of three, the non-custodial parent shall have the child(ren) as follows:

1. Alternating weekends from Saturday at 9:00 a.m. to Sunday at 6:00 p.m. If a child is breast feeding, parenting time for that child shall be for three hours on alternating Saturdays or Sundays; if the parties cannot agree on the time for parenting time, it shall be on Sundays from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

2. During the week, one evening for a minimum of two hours. If the parents cannot agree on the evening, the evening shall be Wednesday. The parenting time shall not extend past 8:00 p.m., absent an agreement between the parties.

3. During a calendar year, the non-custodial parent shall have three (3) nonconsecutive one (1) week periods of parenting time. The time for this parenting time shall be from Sunday at 5:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. the following Sunday. During these weeks, the custodial parent will have two evening parenting times each week, for a minimum of two hours each evening, provided that the child(ren) is(are) not on an out-of-town vacation. If the parents cannot agree on the evenings, the evenings shall be Tuesday and Thursday. The parenting time shall not extend past 8:00 p.m., absent an agreement between the parties. These one week parenting times shall qualify for a 50% support abatement, if there is a parenting time abatement in the current order. The non-custodial parent shall give the custodial parent 30 days advance written notice of the intent to exercise this parenting time. If the week parenting time includes the custodial parent's normally scheduled weekend, the custodial parent shall be entitled to a make-up

weekend, the first weekend following the return of the child(ren) to the custodial parent.

4. For holidays see D. below.

5. Paragraph #3, above, shall not apply to a child that is breast feeding.

B. PARENTING SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN AGED THREE, UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF KINDERGARTEN.

1. Each parent will have alternating weekends from Friday at 6:00 p.m. until Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

2. During the week, the non-custodial parent will have one evening that week for a minimum of two hours. If the parents cannot decide on the evening, the evening shall be Wednesday. The parenting time shall not extend past 8:00 p.m., absent an agreement between the parties.

3. Extended week long parenting times shall be as designated in A.I.3., above.

4. Holiday parenting time shall be as in D. below.

C. PARENTING SCHEDULE FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Where the oldest child has completed kindergarten, all children are bound by this schedule:

1. Each parent shall have alternating weekends, from Friday at 6:00 p.m. to Sunday at 6:00 p.m..

2. During the week, the non-custodial parent will have one evening that week for a minimum of two hours. If the parents cannot agree on a day, the evening shall be Wednesday. The parenting time shall not extend past 8:00 p.m., absent an agreement between the parties.

3. Holiday parenting time shall be as in D. below.

D. HOLIDAYS

The following holiday schedule applies to all children, regardless of their age. The holiday schedule takes precedence over any other regularly scheduled parenting time and any extended summer, Christmas, and/or spring break parenting times.

The mother shall have the following holidays in odd-numbered years and the father shall have them in even-numbered years:

- 1) Fourth of July
- 2) Thanksgiving

3) Christmas Day

The father shall have the following holidays in odd-numbered years and the mother shall have them in even-numbered years:

- 1) Memorial Day
- 2) Labor Day
- 3) Christmas Eve
- 4) Children's Birthdays

The hours for holiday parenting time are as follows (except for breast feeding children):

Memorial Day - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Fourth of July - 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. the following morning.

Labor Day - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving - 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. the following morning.

Christmas Eve - 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Children's Birthdays - For a minimum of three hours. All of the siblings are included in birthday parenting time.

Mother's Day each year is with the mother from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Father's Day each year is with the father from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For breast feeding children, the time of holiday parenting time shall be limited to three hours. If the parents cannot agree on the time for the parenting time, it shall be for the first three hours of the period indicated above.

When a holiday falls on a weekend, the holiday should be spent with the parent who is scheduled to have the child(ren) for that holiday. The remainder of the weekend is to be spent with the parent who is scheduled to have the child(ren) for that weekend.

In the event that the holidays of Memorial Day, Labor Day, or Thanksgiving coincide with that parent's regularly scheduled weekend, the children should remain with that parent for the entire extended weekend.

E. EXTENDED PERIODS OF Parenting time

Once the oldest child completes kindergarten, the non-custodial parent shall have the following parenting time with all children (except a breast-feeding child, which shall be limited to the parenting time stated in A. above).

1. Summer vacation:

One half of the summer vacation is spent with each parent.

In odd numbered years, the Mother will have the first half of the summer and the father will have the second half.

In the even numbered year, the mother will have the second half of the summer, and the father will have the first half of the summer.

Summer parenting time begins at 9:00 a.m. seven days after school recesses for the school year or ends at 6:00 p.m. seven days before the new school years commences (for example, if the last day of school is a Wednesday, the parenting time would begin at 9:00 a.m. on the following Wednesday). During extended summer parenting time, the parent who is not exercising extended parenting time shall have regularly scheduled weekend and weekday evening parenting time, as in C.1. and 2., above, providing that the child(ren) has(have) no out-of-town vacation travel plans. Any out-of-town vacation plans should be confirmed by both parents, in writing, no later than May 15, of each year.

2. Christmas School Vacation:

In the odd numbered years, the Father will have the Christmas school vacation.

In the even numbered years, the mother will have the Christmas school vacation.

Christmas vacation begins at 6:00 p.m. the day school recesses for the Christmas School vacation. Christmas vacation ends at 6:00 p.m. the day before school commences. The parent that is not exercising extended Christmas vacation shall have regularly scheduled weekend and weekday evening parenting time as in C.1. and 2., above, providing that the child(ren) has(have) no out-of-town vacation travel plans. Any out-of-town vacation plans should be confirmed by both parents, in writing, no later than November 30, of each year.

3. Spring school break:

In the even numbered years the father will have the spring school break.

In the odd numbered years the mother will have the spring school break.

Spring school break begins at 6:00 p.m. the day school recesses for the School spring break and ends the day before school commences at 6:00 p.m. The parent that is not exercising extended Spring break vacation shall have regularly scheduled weekend and weekday evening parenting time as in C. 1.2. and 3., above, providing the child(ren) has(have) no out-of-town vacation plans. Any out-of-town vacation plans should be confirmed by both parents, in writing, no later than February 15, of each year.

F. MISCELLANEOUS

The parents shall exercise the parenting schedule in a prompt manner. In cases of unforeseen circumstances a 30 minute delay in picking up/returning the child(ren) is allowed. This does not mean that a parent can habitually exercise a return time of 6:00 p.m. at 6:30 p.m.

When either of the parents become aware of a delay they shall notify the other parent as soon as possible, when practicable.

When parents are planning out of town vacation plans with the child(ren) a general itinerary and emergency number will be provided to the other parent, in writing.

Support abatement during extended parenting time shall be calculated from the beginning of the parenting time to the end of the parenting time. Weekend and or week day evening parenting time shall not interrupt the calculation of the support abatement.

Unless provided for otherwise, the parent exercising parenting time shall be responsible for picking up and returning the child(ren).

Clothes and other personal items which are sent with the child(ren) on parenting time shall be returned with the child(ren).

Each parent shall be allowed reasonable access to the child(ren) via telephone calls, when the child(ren) is(are) in the care of the other parent.

The weekend and weekday evening parenting time shall not interfere with a child's scheduled extracurricular activities, i.e. sports, scouting, and music.

In the case where the custodial parent has moved the children from Van Buren County, the non-custodial parent shall be responsible for picking the child up at the beginning of parenting

time, and the custodial parent shall be responsible for picking the child(ren) up at the conclusion of parenting time.

In the case where both parents are located in Van Buren County, or the non-custodial parent has moved, the non-custodial parent shall be responsible for the picking up the child(ren) at the beginning of parenting time and returning the child(ren) at the conclusion of parenting time.

This Parenting Policy is effective the 19th day of August, 1996.

Sept 11, 1996
Date

Meyer Warshawsky
Meyer Warshawsky, Circuit Judge

August 20, 1996
Date

William C. Buhl
William C. Buhl, Circuit Judge