

# SUMMIT COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT

## PARENTING TIME SCHEDULES

### INSTRUCTION SHEET

To assist families in determining a schedule, the court offers several parenting time schedules for families to review and choose from. These schedules are designed to serve as examples and may be altered as the parents agree.

#### **General Instructions**

1. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §3109.04, the court must consider the best interest of the child when establishing a parenting order. It is generally in the best interest of the child(ren) to enjoy a continued meaningful relationship and companionship with both parents on a consistent and frequent basis. The presumption is that parents should share the parenting time equally.
2. It is critical to the success of any schedule that each parent be flexible, based upon the changing needs of the child(ren), as the child(ren) grow(s) up. This parenting schedule takes into account the changing developmental needs of the child(ren). It is the affirmative duty of each parent to make certain that the child(ren) attends all parenting time periods with the other parent. It is recognized that each situation and each child is different. Liberal parenting time arrangements are encouraged, as contact with both parents is important to the child(ren).
3. The best parenting time schedule is your own plan.
4. No parent is authorized to make parenting time arrangements or modify court ordered parenting time directly with the child(ren). The parents must personally discuss any issues or conflicts involving parenting time without involving the child(ren).
5. The provided parenting time schedules are examples for parents to use in formatting a schedule that is appropriate based upon their child(ren)'s needs. These parenting time schedules are designed to be completed as a worksheet.
6. Once parents have selected a preferred parenting time schedule, parents must designate which parent shall be regarded as "Parent 1" and which parent will be "Parent 2." Please keep in mind the designation of "Parent 1" and "Parent 2" does not affect either parent's status as a "residential" or "nonresidential" parent.

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- a. Parents should review the selected parenting time schedule to determine which parent is most appropriately designated as “Parent 1” and “Parent 2” based upon the following factors: work schedules, living situations, extracurricular activities schedules, transportation needs, historical division of parental duties, as well as any other relevant factors.
  - b. As a general rule, Parent 1 is the parent that has the most overnights with the minor child(ren). If the parties have equal parenting time, then Parent 1, by default, shall be assigned to the parent that is the residential parent for school purposes.
7. Once “Parent 1” and “Parent 2” have been designated, parents shall review and complete each section of the selected parenting time schedule to determine which portions shall be used.
  8. If the selected parenting time schedule provides for varied schedules based upon the child(ren)’s age, parents must write the name and date of birth for each child for whom the relevant section is applicable. For example, if parents intend to use Parenting Time Schedule A and have decided to use the schedule pertaining to children from birth to 12 months, parents are to write the name(s) and date(s) of birth for each child for which such a schedule will be utilized.

#### **Choosing the Appropriate Schedule**

9. Parenting Time Schedule A, B, and C are suggested for parents who reside in close proximity to one another and the parenting time progresses to accommodate the changing needs of children as they grow up.
10. Parenting Time Schedule A is for parents that plan to enjoy equal parenting time once the child(ren) reach(es) the age of 3.
11. Parenting Time Schedules B and C are suggested for children who primarily reside with one parent during the week.
12. Parenting Time Schedule D is suggested for parents who do not live in close proximity to one another. This schedule is intended for parents who live a driving distance of 4 hours apart or more.

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13. Parenting Time Schedule E is a transitional plan in which Parent 2 continues to gain parenting time after the successful completion of predetermined goals. If Parent 2 successfully completes each step as set forth in Parenting Time Schedule E, the parents may select one of the other Parenting Time Schedules to use moving forward.
14. Parents may add to, edit, and/or eliminate sections of the selected parenting time schedule. If the parents intend to delete all or a portion of a section, the parents should cross off or draw a line through the language the parents intend to delete and place both of their initials next to the deleted language.
  - a. Any changes may be documented directly on the selected parenting time schedule and/or by attaching an [“Additional Provisions”](#) page to the selected time schedule.
15. Parents can attach these schedules to a parenting plan and file with the Court.
16. The “Rules” section is the same for each plan- however all portions may not be relevant depending on the plan chosen by the parents.