

## ST. CLAIR COUNTY FRIEND OF COURT PARENTING GUIDELINE

Michigan Law establishes that minor children have a right to a relationship with both parents. It is the responsibility of the Friend of Court to recommend a parenting time schedule reflecting what it considers to be in the best interest of the minor child(ren).

The following is the standard parenting time schedule. This is a guideline and is not an order of the Court. Any deviation from the schedule is permissible if the parties agree. It is strongly recommended that parents develop their own arrangements that will consider the unique circumstances of their family, which can be modified from time to time. The Friend of Court may also recommend deviation from the following typical schedule. A deviation is made on a case by case basis and is based on many factors, including, the past parent-child(ren) relationship; the age and developmental needs of the child(ren); the location of each parent's residence and consideration of any special circumstances. Please keep the interest of your child(ren) in mind when scheduling parenting time. The following is the St. Clair County Standard Parenting Time Schedule unless otherwise Court ordered:

### ST. CLAIR COUNTY FRIEND OF COURT STANDARD PARENTING TIME

**EVERY OTHER WEEKEND** from 6:00 p.m. Friday until 6:00 p.m. Sunday per the following schedule:

**Father's Weekends 2020:** 1/3, 1/17, 1/31, 2/14, 2/28, 3/13, 3/27, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22, 6/5, 6/19, 7/3, 7/17, 7/31, 8/14, 8/28, 9/11, 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/6, 11/20, 12/4, 12/18.

**Mother's Weekends 2020:** 1/10, 1/24, 2/7, 2/21, 3/6, 3/20, 4/3, 4/17, 5/1, 5/15, 5/29, 6/12, 6/26, 7/10, 7/24, 8/7, 8/21, 9/4, 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, 10/30, 11/13, 11/27, 12/11, 12/25.

**Father's Weekends 2021:** 1/1, 1/15, 1/29, 2/12, 2/26, 3/12, 3/26, 4/9, 4/23, 5/7, 5/21, 6/4, 6/18, 7/2, 7/16, 7/30, 8/13, 8/27, 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/19, 12/3, 12/17, 12/31.

**Mother's Weekends 2021:** 1/8, 1/22, 2/5, 2/19, 3/5, 3/19, 4/2, 4/16, 4/30, 5/14, 5/28, 6/11, 6/25, 7/9, 7/23, 8/6, 8/20, 9/3, 9/17, 10/1, 10/15, 10/29, 11/12, 11/26, 12/10, 12/24.

**WEEKDAY PARENTING TIME:** one (1) evening per week from 5:30pm to 7:30pm on a weekday to be determined by the parents. If unable to agree, it will be on Wednesday. There will be a 9:00pm extended return during summer months.

### >>>HOLIDAYS<<<

**IF YOUR ORDER SPECIFIES THE PARTIES WILL FOLLOW THE FRIEND OF COURT HOLIDAY SCHEDULE, SUMMER WEEKS ARE INCLUDED UNLESS OTHERWISE ORDERED BY THE COURT.**

**HOLIDAY AND SUMMER PARENTING TIME BREAKS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER OTHER SCHEDULED PARENTING TIME.** Whenever a more specific holiday (i.e. Mother's Day) or summer parenting time is scheduled, it takes precedence over any regularly scheduled parenting time. When the holiday or summer parenting time concludes, the regular alternating weekend schedule will resume as if it had not been interrupted. If the child is not of school age, the school vacation schedule of the district where the child resides will be followed.

Father will have these specified holidays in all odd-numbered years and mother will have these holidays in all even-numbered years:

- Memorial Day Weekend from Friday at 6pm until Memorial Day at 6pm
- Labor Day Weekend from Friday at 6pm until Labor Day at 6pm

Father will have the following holidays in all even-numbered years and mother will have these holidays in all odd-numbered years:

- Fourth of July from July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm until July 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
- Thanksgiving weekend from 6pm the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving until 6pm the Sunday evening following Thanksgiving

**MOTHER'S DAY AND FATHER'S DAY:** The child(ren) will be with mother for the entire Mother's Day weekend and then be with father for the entire Father's Day weekend from Friday at 6pm until Sunday at 6pm.

**CHRISTMAS/WINTER BREAK:** In all odd-numbered years, father's Christmas parenting time will be from 6pm on the last day of school where the child(ren) attends until 9pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Mother's Christmas parenting time will be from 9pm on December 24<sup>th</sup> until 6pm the day before school resumes. Thereafter, the normal parenting time schedule will resume.

In all even-numbered years, mother's Christmas parenting time will be from 6pm on the last day of school where the child(ren) attends until 9pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Father's Christmas parenting time will be from 9pm on December 24<sup>th</sup> until 6pm the day before school resumes. Thereafter, the normal parenting time schedule will resume.

**EASTER/SPRING BREAK:** Father will have the entire Easter/spring break in all even-numbered years. Mother will have the entire Easter/spring break in all odd-numbered years. Spring break parenting time begins at 6pm the day school recesses for spring break and concludes at 6pm the evening before school resumes after the break. In the event the Easter Sunday weekend is not included in the school spring break week, the father has the entire Easter weekend from Good Friday at 9am until Easter Sunday at 6pm in the even-numbered years and mother has the entire Good Friday through Easter Sunday weekend in the odd-numbered years.

**SUMMER PARENTING TIME:** The non-custodial parent will have three non-consecutive weeks of summer parenting time consisting of seven consecutive overnights as follows:

- 1<sup>ST</sup> WEEK: the third Sunday in June at 6pm returning the following Sunday at 6pm.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK: the second Sunday in July at 6pm returning the following Sunday at 6pm.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> WEEK: the first Sunday in August at 6pm returning the following Sunday at 6pm.

The custodial parent will be allowed three non-consecutive weeks of vacation time with the child(ren) subject to the non-custodial parent's summer parenting time weeks as specified. The custodial parent's vacation week may not disrupt the non-custodial parent's alternating weekend unless otherwise mutually agreed.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- The parent exercising parenting time is responsible to provide transportation to facilitate his or her parenting time. Transportation must be by a licensed driver, in accordance with all car seat/seat belt laws.
- A one-half (1/2) hour unavoidable delay period will be allowed for parenting time exchanges. The intention of this unavoidable delay is intended for **EMERGENCIES ONLY**.
- Make-up parenting time will be allowed only when parenting time is missed due to the non-availability of the child(ren). Make-up is not applied when parenting time is missed due to the non-availability of the parent scheduled for parenting time. The parents are to work out and agree on make-up parenting when notification is given that the child(ren) is/are not available. If unable to resolve, then requests for make-up parenting time must be submitted, in writing, to the Friend of the Court within fifty-six (56) days after parenting time is missed.

**PARENTING TIME COMPLAINTS:** Complaints can be submitted via the Friend of the Court website @ [www.stclaircounty.org/offices/foc](http://www.stclaircounty.org/offices/foc) or in writing to the Friend of the Court office. All complaints must include the specific dates denied, reason given for denial, whether you went to the exchange point to pick up the child(ren) and if you were on time. You must specify the requested information or your complaint may be returned to you.

**PARENTING TIME CONCERNS:** Both parties are encouraged to refer to the Friend of the Court website when concerns arise regarding parenting time, custody, moving out of state, moving more than 100 miles, child support and/or medical. The Friend of the Court handbook is readily available for reference and/or information. The website also offers all Friend of the Court forms, motions and instruction sheets. [www.stclaircounty.org/offices/foc](http://www.stclaircounty.org/offices/foc)

- **PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT SHOULD BE REPORTED TO PROTECTIVE SERVICES (855) 444-3911.**
- **THE FRIEND OF THE COURT CANNOT ENFORCE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE PARENTS, NOT REFLECTED IN A COURT ORDER.**