

OFFICE OF MIDLAND COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT
SHARED PARENTING PLAN

May 15, 1997

It is strongly recommended that parents develop their own parenting schedule taking into consideration the unique circumstances of their family.

The sense of frequent access to both parents is essential to successful adjustment of children to the separation of their parents. The capacity to cooperate on behalf of children is often difficult for parents who have separated. Joint planning is difficult to achieve, and under circumstances where all efforts to establish time periods for each parent to be with the child(ren) have failed, the following schedule will be implemented.

The following schedule is mandated when efforts to work out times and dates through agreement and/or mediation have not been successful.

The parenting schedule to be followed will be determined by the age of the oldest child of the family.

I. PARENTING SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN BIRTH TO FOURTH BIRTHDAY:

In a family where the oldest child is under the age of four, the parent exercising parenting time will have the children as follows:

- alternating weekends from 9:00 am Saturday until 6:00 pm on Sunday.
- the parent exercising parenting time will have access to the children a minimum of three (3) hours twice weekly.
- during a calendar year, the parent exercising parenting time will have six (6) nonconsecutive one (1) week periods of parenting time. This time is defined as 9:00 am Saturday until 9:00 am the following Saturday. During this time, the parent exercising parenting time will have access to the children a minimum of three (3) hours twice weekly. These six (6) one week periods qualify for child support abatement if there is such a provision in the current Child Support Order. A 30 day advance notice of intent to schedule each of these weeks will be given by the parent exercising parenting time.
- See IV for the Holiday.

II. PARENTING SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN AGE FOUR - SCHOOL AGE:

In a family where the oldest child is between the age of four to completion of kindergarten, the regular parenting schedule is as follows:

- each parent will have alternating weekends from 6:00 pm Friday until 6:00 pm Sunday.
- the parent exercising parenting time will have one evening each week for a **minimum** of three hours.
- the parent exercising parenting time will be entitled to five consecutive days per month to occur following the first weekend of the regular alternating schedule each month. The five days are not to interfere with the child(ren)'s regular day care arrangements or pre-school programs. The parent exercising parenting time will be responsible for any child care expenses incurred during this period of time if the children's existing day care or pre-school programs cannot be utilized. These one week periods qualify for child support abatement if there is such a provision in the current Child Support Order. During this time, the other parent will have access to the children one evening that week for a minimum of three (3) hours if the child is not out of town for a vacation.
- See IV for the Holiday schedule.

III. PARENTING SCHEDULE FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN:

In a family where the oldest child has completed kindergarten, all younger children will be included in this schedule:

- each parent will have alternating weekends from 6:00 pm on Friday until 6:00 pm on Sunday.
- the parent exercising parenting time will have one evening each week during the school year for a **minimum** of three (3) hours.
- See IV for the Holiday schedule.

IV. HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

The following holiday parenting schedule applies to **all** children regardless of their age. The Holiday Schedule takes precedence over any other regular parenting schedule of the children.

- In **odd** numbered years, the Mother will have the following holidays:

- 1) Easter
- 2) Fourth of July
- 3) Thanksgiving
- 4) Christmas Day
- 5) Children's Birthday

- In **odd** numbered years, the Father will have the following holidays:

- 1) Memorial Day
- 2) Labor Day
- 3) Christmas Eve
- 4) Halloween

- In **even** numbered years, the Mother will have the following holidays:

- 1) Memorial Day
- 2) Labor Day
- 3) Christmas Eve
- 4) Halloween

- In **even** numbered years, the Father will have the following holidays:

- 1) Easter
- 2) Fourth of July
- 3) Thanksgiving
- 4) Christmas Day
- 5) Children's Birthday

Hours for holidays are as follows:

Easter - 10:00 am until 7:00 pm

Memorial Day - 9:00 am until 9:00 pm

Fourth of July - 9:00 am until 9:00 am the next day

Labor Day - 9:00 am until 9:00 pm

Thanksgiving - 9:00 am until 9:00 am the next day

Christmas Eve - December 23 from 9:00 pm until December 24 at 9:00 pm

Christmas Day - December 24 from 9:00 pm until December 25 at 9:00 pm

Halloween Night - 5:30 pm until 8:30 pm

Children's birthday - for a minimum of three hours (time to be established by the parent exercising parenting time). This time also includes siblings.

MOTHER'S DAY - each year the Mother will have Mother's day from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm.

FATHER'S DAY - each year the Father will have Father's Day from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm.

A holiday that falls on a weekend should be spent with the parent who is supposed to have the child(ren) for that holiday. However, the balance of the weekend is to be spent with the parent who would normally have the children for that weekend.

In the event that the holidays of **Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, or Thanksgiving** coincide with that parent's regular weekend schedule, the children remain with that parent for the entire extended weekend.

V. PERIODS OF EXTENDED PARENTING TIME:

Once the oldest child of a family completes kindergarten, all children will be included in this schedule.

Summer:

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

In the **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 years, the Father will have the **first** half of the summer and the Mother will have the **second** half.

Summer vacation is defined as 9:00 am the day after school recesses for the school year until 6:00 pm the day before the new school year resumes. The alternating weekend schedule will remain in effect throughout the entire year **without exception**. The midweek parenting schedule is in effect providing the parent with the children has no out-of-town vacation travel plans. In the event existent child care arrangements cannot be utilized, the parent exercising summer parenting time shall be responsible for child care arrangements and/or expenses incurred during this time.

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 school vacation is defined as 6:00 pm the day school recesses until 6:00 pm the day before school resumes. The alternating weekend schedule remains in effect. The midweek parenting schedule is in effect providing that the parent with the children have no out-of-town vacation and/or travel plans.

Spring school break:

In the **even** numbered years, the Mother will have the Spring school break.

In the **odd** numbered years, the Father will have the Spring school break.

Spring school break is defined as 6:00 pm the day school recesses until 6:00 pm the day before school resumes. The alternating weekend parenting schedule remains in effect. The midweek parenting schedule is exercised during this extended period providing that the parent with the children have no out-of-town vacation plans.

VI. TRANSPORTATION & RELATED INFORMATION:

The transportation of the children during the parenting time shall be the responsibility of both parents. If the parties are unable to agree as to the transportation arrangements for the minor children, then, the parent exercising **THEIR** parenting time will initiate the pick up of the child(ren).

The parenting schedule will be exercised in a prompt manner. In the event of an unforeseen circumstance, a thirty (30) minute grace period is acceptable for picking up and returning the children.

A general itinerary and emergency telephone number will be provided to the other parent if an out-of-town vacation is planned.

The parent exercising their parenting time may designate a third party to transport the children in their stead.

For purposes of implementing a child support abatement to the parent exercising extended parenting time, any parenting time exercised by the other parent does not interrupt the calculation for the number of overnight periods the children spend. For example, spring break is calculated from the day school recesses until the day before school resumes.

VII. PARENTING TIME ABATEMENT

Pursuant to the Michigan Child Support Formula, the support order may provide for a parenting time abatement after a minor child(ren) has been with the non-custodial parent. If this provision is applicable, it is the responsibility of both parents to notify the Office of Friend of the Court, in writing, of the dates of the parenting time. This notification must be made within 60 days of the end of the parenting time by completing the Midland County Request for Child Support Parenting Credit form which is a part of this Shared Parenting Plan.

Each time a credit or refund is requested for parenting time, this form must be completed, signed by both parents and mailed to the Office of Friend of the Court. Based on information provided on the Request for Credit Form (even if only one parent signs the form), credits will be automatically applied to the support account and overpayments will be refunded to the payer of support. After the credit has been applied to the support account, a copy of the Request form will be returned to both parents with the shaded box at the bottom of the form completed by the Office of Friend of the Court. Pursuant to Statute, credits will only be applied to the account at the end of the parenting time; no credits will be applied either prior to or during parenting times.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
42ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MIDLAND COUNTY

REQUEST FOR CHILD SUPPORT
PARENTING CREDIT
(TO BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE PARENTING TIME)

CASE NO.

Court Address: 301 W. Main Street; Courthouse; PO Box 619; Midland, MI 48640-0619

(989) 832-6801

Payer Name and Address:

INSTRUCTIONS: Each time a credit/refund is requested for parenting time, this form must be completed, and should be signed by both parents and mailed to the Office of the Friend of the Court. Based on the information provided (even if only one parent signs the form), credits will automatically be applied to the support account and overpayments will be refunded to the payer of support. When processed, a copy of this form will be returned to each parent (with the shaded box at the bottom completed by the Office of the Friend of the Court) as confirmation of the credit.

Payee Name and Address:

Please use only one form for each period of parenting time.

PERCENT OF ABATEMENT: ☐ 50 % ☐ 100 % ☐ OTHER _____ NUMBER OF CHILD(REN) VISITING: _____

NAME OF CHILD VISITING: _____

Beginning: _____ (date) at _____ (time of pickup)

Ending: _____ (date) at _____ (time of return)

NAME OF CHILD VISITING: _____

Beginning: _____ (date) at _____ (time of pickup)

Ending: _____ (date) at _____ (time of return)

NAME OF CHILD VISITING: _____

Beginning: _____ (date) at _____ (time of pickup)

Ending: _____ (date) at _____ (time of return)

NAME OF CHILD VISITING: _____

Beginning: _____ (date) at _____ (time of pickup)

Ending: _____ (date) at _____ (time of return)

COMMENTS:

Requested by: _____
(Parent's signature)

Date: _____

Confirmed by: _____
(Parent's signature)

Date: _____

(Please put your initials next to any changes you make to the information provided. Verify that form is completed in full before signing.)

Abatement is 50% of Child Support Order unless otherwise stated by Court Order or BOTH parties signed request.

FOC USE ONLY:

CREDIT CONFIRMATION

By: _____

Number of Overnights _____ Support Order Amount \$ _____ (NOT INCLUDING CHILD CARE)

The amount of \$ _____ has been applied to charges on the support account and will: ☐ Be applied to the support arrearage; or

☐ Overpayment will be refunded.

A copy of this credit confirmation was mailed to both parents on _____.

INFORMATION REGARDING REQUEST FOR PARENTING CREDIT

Attached is a request form to be used when notifying the Office of Friend of the Court of parenting time which qualifies for a child support credit pursuant to your support order. Please use this form to request a credit [effective date of form 09/2001]. Before signing, be sure all sections are completed; initial any changes you make to the completed form.

One blank form is attached for your next request for parenting time credit. When it is completed and returned to this office, another blank form will be mailed to you again for the next parenting time. This ensures that the most current form is being used to request credits/abatements for parenting times.

As a reminder, it is the responsibility of both parents to notify the Office of Friend of the Court when parenting times occur. Requests for parenting time credits must be made in writing within 60 days from the parenting time.

Objections or questions regarding a credit must be made in writing to the Office of Friend of the Court within 14 days of confirmation of the credit. Objections will be scheduled for a hearing before the Referee of the Office of Friend of the Court. A notice of that hearing will automatically be sent to both parties upon receipt of an objection.

If there is an arrearage on the child support account(s), parenting time credits will be credited against the arrearages before any reimbursement is made regardless of the method of payment.

If the Payor of support remits regular support payments on their own (not sent in by an employer), parenting time credits will automatically be credited to the support account(s) regardless of the support account(s) balance.

If the Payor of support remits regular support payments through their payroll withholding, reimbursement will be made as long as the child support account(s) are current.

Please review this request form carefully as all credits will be made pursuant to the instructions at the top of the form and pursuant to the following excerpt from the Parenting Plan/Policy:

.....E x c e r p t.....

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

For purposes of implementing a child support abatement to the non-custodial parent for those periods of extended parenting time, any parenting time exercised by the custodial parent does not interrupt the calculation for the number of overnight periods the children spend with the non-custodial parent. For example, spring break is calculated from the day school recesses until the day before school resumes.