

**THE STATE OF KANSAS
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
(Barton, Ellsworth, Rice, Russell & Stafford Counties)**

PARENTING TIME GUIDELINES

It is usually in the child's best interest for each parent to have frequent, meaningful and continuing access to their children. A parenting time agreement made by both parents is more preferable than a court imposed solution. However, if one or both parents are unable to agree on parenting time, the following guidelines will be used in most cases. In situations where the nonresidential parent may not have had on-going contact with the children, initial parenting time may be shorter. Further, these provisions may not be applicable to very young children or in situations where geographical distances between parents make compliance impossible. The parents, in exercising parenting time, should be flexible and adapt to the circumstances, e.g. the child's age, on going activities, and any religious holidays not set out below. Be aware these are only guidelines and the court may deviate based upon factual circumstances.

If the parties do not agree the following shall be considered the MINIMUM parenting time to which the nonresidential parent shall be entitled:

- 1) Every other weekend from 6:00 p.m. Friday until 6:00 p.m. Sunday.
- 2) In years ending in an even number:
 - a) The night before each child's birthday;
 - b) Memorial Day weekend from 6:00 p.m. Friday until 6:00 p.m. Monday;
 - c) Independence Day from 6:00 p.m. July 3rd until 6:00 p.m. July 5th;
 - d) Thanksgiving holiday from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday until 6:00 p.m. Sunday;
 - e) From 6:00 p.m. December 27th until 6:00 p.m. on the day before school starts for the second semester.
- 3) In years ending in an odd number:
 - a) Each child's birthday;
 - b) Easter weekend from 6:00 p.m. Good Friday until 6:00 p.m. Easter Sunday;
 - c) Labor Day weekend from 6:00 p.m. Friday until 6:00 p.m. Monday;
 - d) Halloween evening from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.;
 - e) Christmas holiday from 6:00 p.m. on the day school is out until 6:00 p.m. on December 27th.
- 4) If the parties live within the same community, the noncustodial parent shall

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have parenting time one night a week from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

- 5) Every year on the nonresidential parent's birthday and Mother's or Father's Day weekend, whichever is applicable to the nonresidential parent.
- 6) In the summertime for child(ren) who are attending school:
 - a) Two (2) non-consecutive three (3) week periods to be determined by May 1st of each year. The first three (3) week period to start one (1) week after the end of school and the second three (3) week period to end no later than one (1) week before the beginning of school.
- 7) There shall be no weekend parenting time by the residential parent during the period the extended summer parenting time is exercised.
- 8) Any abatement in child support shall be pursuant to the Kansas Child Support Guidelines, upon proper application. Whether child support is current may be a factor in the allowance of the abatement.

Unless other arrangements are made or ordered, the parents shall agree to alternate or share in picking up the child(ren) at the times specified and return them at the times specified. The parents shall have the child(ren) ready for parenting time at the time they are to be picked up and shall be present at the home to receive the child(ren) at the time they are returned.

The nonresidential parent shall give the residential parent two (2) days prior notice if he/she does not intend to exercise parenting time unless an emergency situation exists, in which case he/she will give such notice as is possible under the circumstances.

Each parent shall supply the other with his/her current address and telephone number. Each parent shall allow liberal but reasonable telephone and mail privileges with the child(ren).

The residential parent shall immediately notify the other parent in the event of a medical emergency.

If the parties mutually agree to change the custody provision of their Decree of Divorce, they shall contact their attorneys and petition the Court to approve and order that change. In the event that the parties do not obtain a court order the Court shall not be bound by any agreement of the parties.