

Visitation:

PARENTING SCHEDULE

Parenting time is organized by parents usually in one of two ways: a year-round schedule or a schedule that changes during the summer school vacation period. Some parents decide to alter the regular schedule during the summer months in order for the child(ren) to spend more time with one parent than could otherwise occur during the school year due to school schedules or travel restrictions. Some parents decide to keep the regular schedule even during the summer months and simply use vacation weeks to maximize time with the child(ren). You and your spouse will have to decide between a year-round schedule that doesn't change or a schedule that works one way during the school year and is different during the summer (or whether you just want to create your own schedule from scratch). Whichever type of schedule you choose should define three types of parenting time: regular schedules, holiday schedules, and vacation time. Holiday schedules take priority over vacation time (one parent may not claim Christmas eve as a vacation day and thereby deprive the other parent of the holiday) and vacation time takes priority over regular schedules. The areas below will help you set up your schedules.

1. How do you want to handle the summer vacation?

- I want the regular schedule to continue throughout the summer without any change except for holidays and vacation time.
- I want the schedule to reverse (flip-flop) so that it is the opposite of what it is during the school year.
- I want to have a summer schedule that is different from the school year schedule, but is NOT an exact reversal.
- I want to create my own schedule from scratch.

2. Regular

Most divorced parents structure their parenting time in fourteen day cycles. This permits the parents to alternate with the children. You must decide when the weekend begins (Friday evening or Saturday morning) and when it ends (Sunday evening or Monday Morning). School day schedules may be with one parent only, or alternate between the two. Use the tools below to determine the weekly schedule you will use.

If a seven or fourteen day cycle is inappropriate for your situation, you'll have to write up your own parenting schedule and attach it to your judgment as an exhibit.

Do you agree with the fourteen day cycles schedule? Clicking 'YES' will bring up the Automated Parenting Scheduler to help you create your own, customized, 7 or 14 day parenting schedule.

- Yes, I agree
- No, I will write my own schedule and attach it to my judgment as an exhibit

3. Make Up Time

Occasionally the non-residential ('visiting') parent may have to work, be out of town, or very ill and may not be able to exercise regularly scheduled parenting times. Many parents agree that in such circumstances 'make-up time' should be accommodated. Because any 'make-up time' will necessarily have to be in addition to the regular schedule, it is handled and scheduled on a case-by-case basis. If make-up time is agreed to, the parents usually agree that it must be exercised only for certain causes and only if proper notice is given. For example, make up time may be warranted if the non-residential parent has to travel for work and the travel conflicts with the regular parenting schedule. Make-up time is not warranted where a non-residential parent merely wants to go to a sporting event that conflicts with the regular schedule. Similarly, make-up time may be reasonable where a conflict is foreseen and the schedule is changed with notice. An accommodation of make-up time

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may not be appropriate, however, where a non-residential parent fails to show up to pick up the kids for regular parenting time. If you and your spouse decide to use make-up time to make the schedule and your lives more flexible, you will have the opportunity to specify when and how it comes into play. If you and your spouse agree to permit make-up parenting time, you will have to decide the circumstance when it may not be permitted and the amount of notice (if any) that must be given in order to secure the make-up time.

Do you want to use make-up time? Yes No

4. Right of first refusal

It's not always possible to spend every minute with your children...even when the schedule permits it. Divorced Moms and Dads figure this out before too long and sometimes agree that if a parent cannot be with the children (due to unforeseen travel, illness, or whatever) during their regularly scheduled time, the first option should be to have the children stay with the other parent rather than hiring a baby sitter or sending them off to other relatives. This is sometimes (inarticulately) referred to as a "right of first refusal". If you and your spouse agree to such an arrangement, you should specify the minimum amount of time that will trigger the right of first refusal. For example, if the children are with your spouse and he or she is going to walk the dog for 10 minutes, would it be okay to have a friend or neighbor watch the kids during that time, or should he or she have to call you if he or she is going to be away from the kids for even that small amount of time? Likewise, if the kids are with you and you were called into the office to work on a Saturday afternoon, could you just call a baby sitter or should you contact the other parent and offer to send the kids there for the afternoon? The real question is this: during the regularly scheduled parenting time, for what amount of time may you or your spouse be away from the children without having to talk to each other about maybe sending the kids over (or picking them up)? At what point would you rather have the kids be with the other parent instead of a baby sitter?

Do you want your Agreement to incorporate a "Right of First Refusal" clause? Yes No

You and your spouse will have to notify the other, and offer to send the children to the other, if you will be away from the children for _____ hours.

5. Transportation

Issues of transporting the child(ren) back and forth should be dealt with—it will prevent confusion and arguments. You and your spouse should agree who will be responsible for getting the children to and from the non-residential parent's home. It is a simple and easy thing to take care of now.

Do you want your Agreement to incorporate a "Children's Transportation" clause? Yes No

6. Reasonable Telephone Contact

Telephone contact between parents and children is pretty common. Most Agreements just say that either parent may make contact with the child(ren) by phone and that telephone access should be reasonable—at reasonable times, not too frequently and with reasonable time limits.

Do you want your Agreement to incorporate a "Reasonable Telephone Contact" clause? Yes No

7. Holiday

Choose from the holidays listed below and decide which parent the child(ren) will spend each holiday with in either even years or odd years (or never or both). Holidays that are not selected will not appear in your final Agreement. Decide whether a particular holiday includes only that one day, or the several days that may be associated with it. Consider, for

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example, whether “Thanksgiving” means only “the third Thursday in November,” or whether it means “the four day long Thanksgiving holiday”. Likewise, do you and your spouse consider Memorial Day to mean only the Monday holiday, or the three day weekend? Be sure to include all comments that will help define pick-up and drop-off transition times. For instance, will the four day long Thanksgiving holiday start on Wednesday evening, or not until Thursday morning. In either case, try to give a specific time; like “pick up Wednesday after school and return to school Monday morning,” or “pick up Thanksgiving morning 9:00 a.m. and return no later than 9:00 p.m.” If necessary, include language stating which parent is to do the picking up and dropping off. Be specific.

Holiday	Odd Year	Even Year	Comments
New Year’s Day	_____	_____	_____
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	_____	_____	_____
Lincoln’s Birthday	_____	_____	_____
Valentine’s Day	_____	_____	_____
President’s Day	_____	_____	_____
Casimir Pulaski Day	_____	_____	_____
St. Patrick’s Day	_____	_____	_____
Palm Sunday	_____	_____	_____
Passover	_____	_____	_____
Good Friday	_____	_____	_____
Easter Sunday	_____	_____	_____
Mother’s Day	_____	_____	_____
Armed Forces Day	_____	_____	_____
Memorial Day	_____	_____	_____
Flag Day	_____	_____	_____
Father’s Day	_____	_____	_____
Independence Day	_____	_____	_____
Labor Day	_____	_____	_____
Rosh Hashanah	_____	_____	_____
Yom Kippur	_____	_____	_____

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Holiday	Odd Year	Even Year	Comments
Columbus Day	_____	_____	_____
Halloween	_____	_____	_____
Veterans Day	_____	_____	_____
Thanksgiving Eve and Day <i>(Thu-Fri)</i>	_____	_____	_____
Hanukkah	_____	_____	_____
Christmas Eve and Day	_____	_____	_____
New Year's Eve	_____	_____	_____
Spring Break	_____	_____	_____
Winter Break	_____	_____	_____
Teacher in service days	_____	_____	_____
Kwanza	_____	_____	_____
Mom's Birthday	_____	_____	_____
Dad's Birthday	_____	_____	_____
Child's Birthday	_____	_____	_____
If there are other holidays not listed, please add them:	_____	_____	_____

8. Vacation

Each parent usually has the right to take vacations with the children. Vacation time may not interfere with the other parent's holiday schedule, but many augment a parent's own holiday schedule (for example, you may wish to take the kids on vacation in early July to coordinate your Fourth of July plans). Consider your work schedule and the other parent's schedule. From the pull down menus below, choose the number of weeks each parent may take the children for vacation and how many weeks may be taken at a time (most people limit it to two weeks) and how much advance notice must be given to the other parent.

Number of weeks per year _____

Permissible consecutive weeks _____

Number of days notice required _____