**HYBRID PARENTING TIME GUIDELINES**

**Tuscola/Isabella/Saginaw County Handbooks**

“SC = Saginaw County “ “TC = Tuscola County” “IC = Isabella County” “ \_\_ = New Arrangement”

**SC-** Both parties shall work towards reasonable parenting time during any periods of time which are mutually agreeable to the parties. If an agreement cannot be reached regarding the dates and times for parenting time, then the parties shall be bound by the schedule stated below.

**SCHEDULE FOR HOLIDAYS AND PERIODS OF EXTENDED PARENTING TIME**

**SC-** \*The Holiday and Extended Parenting time Schedule, including Summer, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break, does not change the alternating weekend schedule, and any ordered midweek schedule. Those weekends and midweeks resume at the conclusion of the Holiday and Extended Parenting Time schedule. ***BOTH PARTIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING A WRITTEN CALENDER OF THEIR WEEKENDS, AND ANY ENTITLED MIDWEEKS, THROUGHOUT EACH YEAR, KNOWING THAT THOSE DAYS AND TIMES WHICH FALL DURING HOLIDAYS AND EXTENDED PARENTING TIME SCHEDULE ARE FORFEITED.***

**TC- TELEPHONE PARENTING TIME:** Parents should encourage and help foster healthy communications between their children and the other parent. However, the quality and quality of telephone parenting time will vary depending on the children’s ages and activities. For instance, a very young child may only need or desire brief phone interactions, while older children may enjoy more phone contact but have busier schedules (e.g. sporting events, church activities, school activities, vacations and the like). Therefore, it is necessary for both parents to be reasonable and flexible in seeking and permitting telephone parenting time based on the children’s ages and activities.

* For purposes of these guidelines, “reasonable” is defined as telephone contact at least 2 times per week. Telephone communication may be initiated by the custodial parent, non-custodial parent or child. Note that ***FACEBOOK MESENGER*** or some other form of verbal/visual contact may be used as a substitute for phone calls.
* Both the custodial and non-custodial parent is entitled to telephone parenting time during summer parenting time.
* If a parent regularly denies telephone parenting time without cause or telephone parenting time becomes problematic, the aggrieved parent may file a complaint with the FOC to determine if a specific telephone parenting time schedule should be implemented.

**TC- COURT ORDERS:**  If the court order specifically states how and when parenting time shall be exercised, both parties must follow the specific terms in the court order. However, if the order states that parenting time is pursuant to the “Hybrid Parenting Guidelines,” these Guidelines will govern how and when parenting time shall occur. These Guidelines provide that parties may reach their own agreement as to parenting time, If the parties cannot reach an agreement, the specific provisions contained in these guidelines will determine how parenting time must be exercised.

**TC- TRANSPORTATION:** Unless specified by the court order and in the event parents cannot agree, the parent seeking to exercise his or her parenting time must arrange to pick the children up at the other parent’s residence *or alternate location*. A party may make arrangements for another responsible person to pick up the children so long as the individual has a valid driver’s license, and the children are familiar with him or her.

* **Emergencies and Extreme Difficulty:** Most people recognize and accept that once in a great while some unforeseen event or emergency occurs that will result in transportation difficulties. If an emergency occurs which will make it extremely difficult or impossible to provide transportation, parents should take every step necessary to inform the other parent as soon as possible so the parties can work out an alternative arrangement.

\**If either party has a Personal Protection Order (PPO) against the other party or someone residing in their home, parties shall comply with terms of their PPO.*

**TC- CHRONIC TARDINESS AND ABSENCES:** Chronic tardiness and not showing up for parenting time are unacceptable behaviors and may result in court action. Parties are expected to be punctual and not cause the other party to wait. Only in exceptional circumstances is it permissible to be late for parenting time exchange. If this situation arises, all reasonable attempts to communicate with the other party should be made as soon as possible.

* With this in mind, and in the event that a parent/child is not as the designated exchange location at the scheduled pick-up/drop-off time, the parent/child must wait at least 15 minutes beyond the scheduled exchange time.
* If tardiness and absences become a regular occurrence, the aggrieved party may consider filing a motion to modify or eliminate the parenting time all together.

**TC- MAKE-UP PARENTING TIME:** Parents are encouraged to create a schedule that meets their families” unique needs. As children get older and are involved in more activities, parents are encouraged to be flexible and work together to, first and foremost, serve their children’s best interests. Similarly, parents can expect that, from time to time, special family and school events will arise that may cause interruptions to parenting time schedules. If this occurs, a parent may consider doing the following:

* **Cooperation:** Work with each other to adjust and alter the parenting time schedule to suit the needs of the children AND/OR the *affected* parent
* **Joint Meeting:** If the parents are struggling with their parenting time arrangement, they may wish to contact the FOC to schedule a “joint meeting”. This meeting *may have a cost* and is aimed at helping families work through their parenting time issues in an informal setting with a FOC parenting time coordinate. This meeting will be held only if ***both*** parents agree to participate. *If applicable in Saginaw County*
* **Parenting Time Complaint:** If a parent denies parenting time, the aggrieved parent may request that the FOC determine whether a violation has occurred; if a violation has occurred, the offending party may be required to provide make-up parenting tie pursuant to MCL 552.642 and FOC policy. All parenting time complaints requesting make-up parenting time must be submitted within ***56 days*** from date of alleged violation.
* Follow the process of Saginaw County FOC

**TC- CLOTHING AND BELONGINGS**: Each parent is responsible for providing adequate clothing depending on the weather and the events in which the children will engage in. Additionally, each parent is responsible for food, diapers, and toiletries when the minor children are in their care. When personal belongings are only needed on occasional basis, or financially, it does not make sense to own more than one set of any particular item (e.g. sporting apparel such as cleats, shin guards and uniforms, seasonal clothing such as snowsuits, boots, swim wear, and the like), these types of belongings shall be transported back and forth with the children as necessary. Any clothing or personal belongings that are with the children at the beginning of parenting time must be returned at the completion of parenting time in the condition they were received.

**TC- EDUCATION:** Helping children with their school work and ensuring that work is completed in a timely manner is an important part of parenting. Each parent is responsible for making sure that they provide sufficient structure and time for their children to complete their school work. Parents must communicate with each other regarding homework, special projects, and events to ensure the future success of their children.

* **Communication with School”** Each parent is individually responsible for maintaining communication with their child’s school so they are sure to receive all school related information.
* Summer School: If it is necessary for a child to attend summer school in order to pass the next grade level, the child must be made available to attend, unless **both** parents agree that it is not in the child’s best interest. **SC- If either party misses parenting time because required summer school, then that party may bring a motion before the Court to decide if make up time should be granted. *– if the parties cannot agree to equitable terms***

**TC- EXTRACURICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Parties shall cooperate with each other when enrolling children in extracurricular activities to ensure that the activities do not materially interfere with the ability to exercise parenting time. Neither the custodial parent nor the non-custodial parent should enroll a child in excessive activities that interfere with the other parent’s ability to spend time with their child.

Keeping this in mind, both parents must ensure that while the children are in their care, the children attend all scheduled activities, including practices, games, performances, lessons, tutoring, and other activities.

Parents shall keep one another informed of all activities so that the other parent has the opportunity to attend or participate in the activity, even if the activity occurs when the non-custodial parent does not otherwise have scheduled parenting time.

**SC-APPOINTMENTS/ACTIVITIES SECTION 4:** The party who has the minor child(ren) for his/her custody/parenting time, pursuant to the Court Order, decides what extra-curricular activities the child(ren) will attend. However, if a party desires to have the child(ren) enrolled in, or participating in, an extra-curricular activity, then both parties must provide a signed written agreement to the Friend of the Court that they agree. In that instance, then each party must see to it that the child(ren) attends the activity when the child(ren) is in that party’s care for custody/ parenting time. If at any time there is a disputed issue regarding this provision, then either party may bring a motion before the Court to decide the disputed issue.

**TC- FAMILY REUNIONS, FUNERALS, AND WEDDINGS:** Children shall be allowed to attend family reunions, funerals, weddings of parents, stepparents, paternal and maternal grandparents, biological aunts and uncles, first cousins, half siblings, and current step-siblings as well as, funerals and weddings of close family friends and peers. Children shall be made available to the parent attending the event with sufficient time based on circumstances. The parent requesting parenting time with their children pursuant to this section shall provide *all* transportation. *Any time allocated in excess of 1 overnight to be made up at next reasonable opportunity to the affected parent. FAMILY REUNIONS SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED AT THE EARLIEST AND/OR NO LATER THAR THAN APRIL 15TH WITH MAKE UP TIME ESTABLISHED IF EXCESS OF (1) OVERNIGHT*

**TC- PARENTING TIME EXCHANGES:** Neither parent shall use parenting time exchanges as an opportunity to discuss child support issues, parenting time complaints, or behave disrespectfully toward the other parent. If parenting time exchanges are consistently violated, the court and/or FOC may recommend that all future exchanges occur at a neutral location, including ***Thomas Township Police Department and/or SafePlace***

**SC- MISCELLANEOUS SECTION 6**: Neither party shall speak in a derogatory fashion about the other party, in the presence of the minor child(ren), and there shall be no negative interaction between the parties/significant others on social media. The parties/significant others are prohibited from placing any such negative comments on social media which could be viewed by anyone on social media. Each party to this case is responsible for making sure this provision is abided by.

**SC- MISCELLANEOUS SECTION 7:** Only the Orders of the Court can be enforced by the Friend of the Court, with respect to parenting time. Agreements between parties, regardless of whether they are written or verbal, cannot be enforced by the Friend of the Court.

**SC- MISCELLANEOUS SECTION 8:** Neither party is allowed to discuss with the minor child(ren) any court matters involving the case.

**SC-APPOINTMENTS/ACTIVITIES SECTION 1:** Doctor appointments for the minor child(ren) are to be scheduled during the parenting time of the party who schedules the appointment.

**SC-APPOINTMENTS/ACTIVITIES SECTION 2:** Any medication prescribed by a doctor shall be administered consistent with doctor’s orders. The medication in its prescription bottle shall be exchanged by the parties at pick-ups and drop-offs for parenting time.

**SC-APPOINTMENTS/ACTIVITIES SECTION 3:** A parent, regardless of the custody arrangement, shall not be denied access to records or information concerning his/her child(ren), unless prohibited by a protective order. Records or information include medical, dental, school records, day care provider’s records, and notification of meetings regarding the child’s education. 1996 PA 304, MCL 722.21; MSA 25.312(1) (SB 598).

**SC-APPOINTMENTS/ACTIVITIES SECTION 5:** It is the affirmative responsibility of each party to see that the minor child(ren)’s homework is completed in a timely manner.

**TC- OMISSIONS AND OVERSIGHTS:**  In the event that a situation arises that is not provided for in this policy, the office of the SAGINAW FRIEND OF THE COURT shall have the authority to render an opinion and issue a determination and recommended order subject to parties’ right to object. In reaching its determination, the FOC shall rely on the Michigan Parenting Time Guidelines, as published by the Friend of the Court Bureau of the State Court Administrative Office, Michigan Supreme Court which is available at: http:/courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents?Publications?Manuals/focb/pt\_gdins.pdf

Unless your court order specifies otherwise, the FOC will enforce the most recent version of these Guidelines.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED**

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**HOLIDAY PARENTING TIME SCHEDULE ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**TC- BIRTHDAY PARENTING TIME (AGE 3 AND OVER):** Birthdays are very special for children and parents are encouraged to work together so that a minor child has some form of contact with each parent on their birthday, Unless the parents agree otherwise, the following birthday schedule shall apply:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **ODD YEARS** | **EVEN YEARS** | **TIME** |
| Mother | Father | 6pm on the night before the child’s birthday and continuing until 6pm on the child’s birthday |

* Birthday parenting time takes precedence over standard and long distance parenting time, but it does not take precedence over holiday parenting time.
* All siblings, 9 months and over, shall follow each other’s birthday schedules so that children are together for sibling’s birthday.
* In no case shall birthday parenting time interfere with child’s school schedule or that of a sibling’s. If the minor child is school age, and their birthday falls on a school day, neither parent shall exercise parenting time more than 60 miles from the child’s or sibling(s)’ school.

**TC- SPRING BREAK:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **ODD YEARS** | **EVEN YEARS** | **TIME** |
| Mother | Father | 6pm on the last day of school to 6pm on Sunday one week later |

***\_\_- EASTER:*** *If a party’s weekend falls on Easter then the weekend is unaltered.*

**TC- MOTHERS DAY:**

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| **ODD YEARS** | **EVEN YEARS** | **TIME** |
| Mother | Mother | 6pm on Saturday and continuing until 6pm on Sunday |

**SC- MEMORIAL DAY:** If a party’s weekend falls on Memorial Day then the weekend extends to 6:00 p.m. Monday.

**\_\_- SUMMER BREAK:**

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| **ODD YEARS** | **EVEN YEARS** | **TIME** |
|  |  | Alternating weekends based on existing weekend schedule to commence Wednesday prior and 6pm and continue till 6pm on next Wednesday |

**TC- FATHERS DAY:**

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| **ODD YEARS** | **EVEN YEARS** | **TIME** |
| Father | Father | 6pm on Saturday and continuing until 6pm on Sunday |

**TC- 4TH OF JULY/INDEPENDENCE DAY:**

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| **ODD YEARS** | **EVEN YEARS** | **TIME** |
| Father | Mother | 6pm on the July 3rd and continuing until 6pm on July 5th |

**SC- LABOR DAY:** If a party’s weekend falls on Labor Day then the weekend extends to 6:00 p.m. Monday.

**TC- HALLOWEEN:**

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| **ODD YEARS** | **EVEN YEARS** | **TIME** |
| Mother | Father | 4pm on Halloween and continuing until 8pm same day |

**IC- THANKSGIVING:** The Father shall have the child(ren) for Thanksgiving during odd years and the Mother shall have the child(ren) for Thanksgiving during even years. Parenting time for Thanksgiving shall be from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday until 6:00 p.m. Friday

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| **ODD YEARS** | **EVEN YEARS** | **TIME** |
| Father | Mother | 6pm on Wednesday and continuing until 6pm on Friday |

**TC- CHRISTMAS EVE:**

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| **ODD YEARS** | **EVEN YEARS** | **TIME** |
| Mother | Father | 6pm of the last day of school until 8pm on Christmas Eve |

**TC-CHRISTMAS DAY:**

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| **ODD YEARS** | **EVEN YEARS** | **TIME** |
| Father | Mother | 8pm on Christmas Eve until 3pm on New Year’s Eve |

**TC- NEW YEAR’S EVE:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **ODD YEARS** | **EVEN YEARS** | **TIME** |
| Mother | Father | 3pm on New Year’s Eve until 6pm on evening prior to the resumption of school |