

PINELLAS COUNTY FAMILY LAW DIVISION

Non Primary Residential Parent Visitation Schedule

NOTE 1: *The Court Does NOT adopt an official visitation schedule.*

NOTE 2: *This schedule is not necessarily appropriate for every case. This is simply a guide to assist you in establishing a schedule that takes into consideration the needs of your family.*

VISITATION MUST NOT BE VIEWED AS A PRIVILEGE TO BE EXERCISED AT THE WHIM OF THE NON-RESIDENTIAL PARENT, BUT AS A RESPONSIBILITY WHICH MUST BE FULFILLED ABSENT NECESSARY CAUSE.

VISITATION IS FOR THE PRIMARY BENEFIT OF THE CHILD OR CHILDREN AND NOT THE NON-RESIDENTIAL PARENT.

These are general visitation provisions for non-residential parents that other families have found suitable.

Following are examples of some factors that may affect the appropriateness of this visitation schedule:

- The age(s), specific needs of the children and any unique social circumstances.
- Transportation of the child(ren) to and from scheduled visitations.
- The logistics involved in arranging the visitation.

Many parents have also found it valuable to take into consideration issues such as: details concerning the exchange of the child(ren); school contact; telephone communication; timely notice of cancellation of visitations; itinerary when vacations are scheduled; right of first refusal for the non residential parent when the primary residential parent is out of town or in the hospital; and a variety of other matters that may be unique to the needs of your family.

A suggested visitation schedule is:

1. Every other weekend, from 6:00 p.m. on Friday until 6:00 p.m. Sunday.
2. 6:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. on the Monday following the **non-visitation** weekend.
3. Three (3) uninterrupted weeks during the summer to start no sooner than one full week after the last day of school and to end no later than one full week before the first day of school.

The non-residential-parent will designate his or her choice for the three (3) week summer visitation **no later than April 15** of any given year.

4. **HOLIDAY AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS**

A. **Christmas:** The parents will alternate, on a yearly basis, as follows: From 6:00 p.m. on the last day of the school year until 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Day and from 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Day until 6:00 p.m. on January 1.

Jewish and other non-Christian families will follow this schedule as it is designed to effectively split the Christmas school holiday period.

B. **Thanksgiving:** The parents will alternate, on a yearly basis, as follows: From 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve until 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday following Thanksgiving.

If Thanksgiving falls on the non-residential-parents regular visitation weekend, he, or she, will enjoy the additional two days and nights of visitation. If Thanksgiving should fall on a weekend wherein it **is** the non-residential-parents visitation weekend, **but it is** the residential-parents turn for having the child or children for Thanksgiving, then and in that even, the non-residential parent will have his or her regular visitation the **following** weekend.

C. **Easter:** The parents will alternate, on a yearly basis, as follows: From 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday before Easter until 6:00 p.m. Easter day.

Any conflicts between regularly scheduled weekend visitation and alternate yearly Easter visitation will be handled the same manner in which the Thanksgiving alternate yearly visitation is handled (See: sub paragraph B. above).

D. **Spring Break:** The parents will alternate, on a yearly basis, as follows: From 6:00 p.m. of the first full day of Spring Break until 6:00 p.m. the evening before the last full day of Spring Break (i.e. if school starts back on a Monday, the child or children would be returned at 6:00 p.m. on the preceding Saturday.) Any conflicts between regularly scheduled weekend visitation and alternate yearly Spring Break will be handled the same manner in which the Thanksgiving alternate yearly visitation is handled (see sub paragraph B. above).

E. **Mother's Day and Father's Day:** Each parent shall have the child or children with her or him from 6:00 p.m. the evening before this day until 6:00 p.m. on this day, **no matter what the visitation schedule would otherwise be.** There will be **no** make up day for the non-residential parent should his or her weekend visitation be cut short as a result of the Mother's Day/Father's Day entitlement.

F. **Jewish and non-Christian religious holidays and festivals:** The parents will alternate, on a yearly basis, these occasions, keeping in mind the custody, beliefs, and practices of their faith and the right of the child or children to maintain, without interruption, the said customs, beliefs and practices of their faith.

5. The non-residential parent shall be expected to maintain any regularly scheduled **important** events while exercising visitation (i.e. religious observances, team sports, music instruction, etc.).
6. The visiting parent shall also maintain, **without fail** any and all medical prescription dosages and/or medical therapy as may be prescribed for the child or children.
7. Finally, the visiting parent shall advise the primary residential parent as to the whereabouts of the child or children during any visitation period; especially if vacations or trips out of the immediate area are planned.