

MEIGS COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT
STANDARD VISITATION GUIDELINES

I. STANDARD VISITATION

The non-residential parent shall received reasonable visitation with the child(ren).

- A. The non-residential parent shall have regular visitation with the child/children of the parties on ALTERNATE WEEKENDS, beginning Friday after visiting parent gets off work or at 6:00 p.m. and ending Sunday at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise stated. (The beginning time of visitation may be varied to accommodate parents' work schedules.) The non-residential parent shall be responsible for picking up the child(ren) and returning the child(ren) to exercise visitation.
- B. Alternate holidays are as follows:
 - 1. The residential parent shall have the child(ren) on the even-numbered years and the non-residential parent shall have the child(ren) on the odd-numbered years on the following holidays:
 - a. New Year's Vacation – from 9:00 a.m. on December 26th until 7:00 p.m. the day prior to school reconvening. The parent exercising this visitation shall pick the child(ren) up to begin visitation.
 - b. President's Day – Friday at 6:00 p.m. to Monday at 7:00 p.m.
 - c. Memorial Day – Friday at 6:00 p.m. to Monday at 7:00 p.m.
 - d. Labor Day – Friday at 6:00 p.m. to Monday at 7:00 p.m.
 - e. Thanksgiving Day – 6:00 p.m. on the day school ends to 7:00 p.m. the day prior to school reconvening.
 - 2. The residential parent shall have the child(ren) on the odd-numbered years and the non-residential parent shall have the child(ren) on the even-numbered years on the following holidays:
 - a. Martin Luther King Day – 6:00 p.m. on the day school ends to 7:00 p.m. on the day prior to school reconvening.
 - b. Easter – 6:00 p.m. on the day school ends to 7:00 p.m. on the day prior to school reconvening.
 - c. Fourth of July – 6:00 p.m. on July 3rd to 7:00 p.m. on July 5th EXCEPT when the 4th falls on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday, at which time visitation shall commence Friday night and continue to end of weekend or end of holiday, whichever is later.
 - d. Columbus Day or Fall Parent/Teacher Conference – 6:00 p.m. on the day school ends to 7:00 p.m. the day prior to school reconvening.
 - e. Christmas Vacation – beginning at 6:00 p.m. the day school ends until 9:00 a.m. on December 26th.

Holiday visitations have precedence over the regular visitation schedule. The Court realizes that, in some cases, a regular weekend visitation will follow an extended holiday weekend visit and said holiday visits shall not modify the weekend visitation schedule.

- C. The child(ren) will spend Mother's Day and Father's Day with the respective parent, regardless of whose turn for visitation. Should this provision require the child(ren) to be with the residential parent during the non-residential parent's visitation, the residential parent shall pick the child(ren) up at 9:00 a.m. on Mother's Day or Father's Day. Should the reverse occur, the non-residential parent shall pick the child(ren) up at 9:00 a.m. on Mother's Day or Father's Day and return the child(ren) by 7:00 p.m.
- D. The child(ren) shall celebrate their odd-numbered birthdays with the non-residential parent and their even-numbered birthdays with the residential parent. Should this provision require the child(ren) to be with the residential parent during the non-residential parent's visitation, the residential parent may pick the child(ren) up at 9:00 a.m. and return the child(ren) at 7:00 p.m. unless the child(ren) are in school or the parent exercising visitation is working. In that event, the child(ren) may be picked up at 6:00 p.m. and returned at 9:00 p.m., which would allow time to take the child(ren) out to eat, receive or stop for gifts and celebrate, etc.

If the child has school the next day, the non-residential parent's visitation shall be completed when the child(ren) is/are picked up by the residential parent.

Should the reverse occur, the non-residential parent shall pick the child(ren) up at either time indicated above depending upon whether the child(ren) are in school and/or their work schedule.

The parent exercising visitation on the birthday shall advise the other parent, during the weekend visitation preceding the birthday, as to the time they will be picking up the child(ren).

- E. The non-residential parent shall have extended summer visitation for all children, up to four (4) weeks duration, to be taken as specified below:
 - 1. A four (4) week consecutive period.
 - 2. A three (3) week consecutive period and a one (1) week period. The second visitation period shall not commence within fifteen (15) days of the first visitation period unless agreed upon by the parties.
 - 3. Two (2) separate visitation periods consisting of two (2) consecutive weeks each. Said visitation to be exercised in different months. The second visitation period shall not commence within fifteen (15) days of the first visitation period unless agreed upon by the parties.

The non-residential parent shall notify the residential parent, in writing, of the dates on which extended summer visitation will take place no later than May 1st. In the event the residential parent finds it necessary to make plans for vacation, prior to May 1st, written notice of the dates for said vacation shall be given to the non-residential parent as soon as possible. Written notice by the residential parent shall give the residential parent precedence on scheduling vacation plans.

Extended summer vacations will be subject to the holiday visitations set forth above and should be planned accordingly. Summer school necessary for the child(ren) to pass into the next grade must be attended. The non-residential parent shall attempt to coincide his or her vacation time with summer visitation.

The non-residential parent shall have any additional summer visitation as agreed upon by the parties.

The non-residential parent is encouraged to make arrangements which will allow the child(ren) to participate in summer activities important to the child(ren), such as ball camps, scout and 4H camps, summer ball team participation and games.

- F. For parents residing in different areas (over a four (4) hour drive between residences) that make the above schedule impractical, visitation shall be, at a minimum, as follows:
1. The entire Christmas vacation, including Christmas Day, in alternate years;
 2. Spring vacation every year;
 3. Up to six (6) weeks summer visitation every year;
 4. Additional visitation may occur at such other times and places as the parties may agree.

II. RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL GUIDELINES

The residential parent shall take the appropriate action to do the following:

- A. List the non-residential parent as a "parent" of the child(ren).
- B. Authorize the school to release to the non-residential parent any and all information concerning the child(ren)
- C. Insure that the non-residential parent received copies of any notices regarding the child(ren).
- D. Residential parent shall promptly transmit to the non-residential parent any information received concerning parent-teacher conferences, school and organization pictures, school club meetings and programs, athletic schedules and any other school activities in which the child(ren) may be participating or interested in.
- E. Residential parent shall promptly, upon written request by the non-residential parent, forward copies of the child(ren)'s grades or report cards, including copies of any report concerning the child(ren)'s status or progress to the non-residential parent.
- F. Residential parent shall, whenever possible, arrange appointments for parent-teacher conferences at a time when the non-residential parent can be present. Whenever possible, such conferences shall be attended by both parents.
- G. Residential parent shall promptly inform the non-residential parent of any serious illness of the child(ren) which requires medical attention.
- H. Residential parent shall encourage frequent communication between the child(ren) and the non-residential parent. The residential parent SHALL NOT do anything to impede or restrict communication by telephone or mail between the child(ren) and the non-residential parent whether initiated by the child(ren) and the non-residential parent. Any mail, between the child(ren) and a parent shall be strictly confidential between them and such mail shall not be

opened by or read by the other parent prior to consent by the said child(ren). This rule applies to the non-residential parent when the child(ren) is/are on an extended visitation with the non-residential parent.

- I. Both parents shall be diligent in having the child(ren) ready and available at the appointed times. The child(ren) and/or non-visiting parent shall have no duty to wait for the visiting parent for more than thirty (30) minutes. A parent who is going to be late due to work or emergency should make every effort to advise of the delay by phone. A visiting parent who is late, unless he or she suffers an unavoidable vehicle breakdown or delay en route and promptly notifies the other parent of the delay, shall forfeit visitation for that time period.
- J. The Court has arranged this visitation schedule in a manner that the residential parent will, on occasion, be required to pick up the child(ren) to exercise visitations. Inasmuch as the residential parent may experience an unavoidable delay, both parents are encouraged to be understanding if the visiting parent is delayed and unavoidably late.
- K. Non-residential parent shall give twenty-four (24) hours notice in the event it is necessary to cancel a scheduled visitation. If a child is seriously ill and unable to travel, the residential parent shall also give twenty-four (24) hours notice.
- L. Residential parent shall send sufficient clothing appropriate to the season with the child(ren) to last the duration of the visitation period.
- M. Visitation DOES NOT include leaving the child(ren) with non-family members for extended periods of time during visitation while the visiting parent pursues his or her own pleasure or activities.
- N. The Court feels that it is more than appropriate for the child(ren) to spend a portion of visitation time with grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, married brothers or sisters, etc.
- O. In the event the visiting parent is detained or unable to pick up or return the child(ren), a mature adult may be designated to pick up or return the child(ren). The Court feels that a spouse, fiancé (assuming the parties have been divorced for more than one year) or a parent, brother or sister of either of the parties would be an appropriate substitute and authorizes such mature adults to act on behalf of either parent. Such mature adults shall be permitted to pick up or return the child(ren) for visitation.
- P. Both parents shall refrain from criticizing the other parent or future step-parents in the presence of the child(ren), and neither parent shall attempt to alienate the affections of the child(ren) towards the other parent. As adults and especially as parents, you should realize that the general welfare of the child(ren) is of paramount importance and encourage the child(ren) to respect, obey and love the other parent.
- Q. Neither parent shall attempt to modify the religious practice of the child(ren) without first having consulted one another.

It shall be Counsel's responsibility to advise their clients of the foregoing guidelines. These guidelines may be modified by the Court, upon application, if the Court finds a need for change is demonstrated.