

APPENDIX E

LOCAL PARENTING SCHEDULE

(Revised as of January 1, 2016)

* Applicable to all Orders issued on or after January 1, 2016 *

INTRODUCTION

Preserving a healthy and ongoing relationship between children and both parents after divorce or separation is of the greatest importance. Each parent must accept the disruption of his or her own schedule to meet the children's needs.

This Court expects that each parent shall make his or her best effort to resolve parenting issues by contacting the other parent first, and trying to work out the differences. The Court cannot enforce a parent's right with a child the same way property rights are enforced. The parenting schedule is only the beginning. It is up to the parents to cultivate a loving, warm and concerned parental relationship with their children.

Each parent needs the frequent and predictable pattern of companionship to avoid being overwhelmed by the day-to-day duties as a single parent and, most importantly, a child needs the continuing and regular involvement with the non-residential parent to feel loved by that parent. Children benefit from regular and predictable contact with both parents. It is assumed that each parent will take advantage of all scheduled parenting time.

No specific schedule will satisfy the changing needs of each child over the years. It is critical to the success of any schedule is that each parent be flexible, willing to change times and/or dates, by mutual cooperation and agreement, based on the changing needs of a child(ren) as (s)he grows older.

The above introduction includes statements adapted from the following sources: *Surviving the Breakup*, (Wallerstein & Kelly 1980); *Planning for Parenting Time*, Ohio's Guide for Parents Living Apart (Ohio Supreme Court, 2012); Appendix J, Hancock County Rules of Court, as amended August 1, 2007.

If the Court Order or Decree indicates that the Local Parenting Schedule is the Order for parenting time, then the ORDER OF THE COURT IS THE FOLLOWING:

PARENTING TIME

Unless otherwise agreed by the parents, the non-residential parent shall exercise as a minimum the following parenting times:

1. **Priority:** In the event holidays or days of special meaning, as listed below, should fall on the same day or overlap, priority shall be given in the following order:
 - a. Birthday of child;
 - b. Holidays;
 - c. Spring break;
 - d. Regularly scheduled parenting time

2. **Weekends:** Beginning on a specific date, every other weekend from Friday night at 7:00 P.M. to Sunday night at 7:00 P.M.

3. **Mid-Week:** In addition, the child(ren) shall spend a minimum of one (1) parenting time period per week, as follows:
 - a. Children from birth through age of 13 - 5:00 to 8:00 P.M.
 - b. Children age 14 and up - 5:00 to 9:00 P.M.

If there is more than one (1) child, the hour of return shall be the hour set for the youngest child. If the parents cannot agree on a day, the day for the mid-week parenting time shall be Wednesday.

4. **Days of Special Meaning:**
 - a. Mother's Day and Father's Day are to be spent with the appropriate parent, regardless of which parent is entitled to the weekend. If the parties cannot agree on times, the times shall be 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. The children shall spend the rest of the weekend with the parent who normally has that weekend.

 - b. The child(ren)'s birthday shall always be spent with the Mother in odd-numbered years, and shall always be spent with the Father in even-numbered years. If the parties cannot agree, the time is 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for a child not in school on the birthday, and 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. for a child in school on the birthday. The child's birthday shall be spent with the designated parent, even if the other parent is entitled to

weekend, mid-week, holiday or vacation with the child. Brothers and sisters shall attend the birthday event.

c. Other days of special meaning such as religious holidays, etc., should be discussed and written into the Court Order.

5. **Holidays:** Parents may wish to change by agreement a holiday at least one week in advance in order to observe family or religious traditions. If not changed by agreement, holiday times shall be as follows:

	<u>Even-numbered</u> <u>Years</u>	<u>Odd-numbered</u> <u>Years</u>	<u>As agreed, or:</u>
Easter Sunday	Mother	Father	See description below
Spring Break	Father	Mother	See description below
July 4 th			See Section 6 below
Trick or Treat	Mother	Father	5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Thanksgiving	Father	Mother	Thur. 9:00 A.M.-Fri. 7:00 P.M.
Christmas, “1 st half”	Mother	Father	See description below
Christmas, “2 nd half”	Father	Mother	See description below

Holidays, Generally: A holiday that falls on a weekend shall be spent with the parent who is designated to have the child(ren) for that holiday and the other parent shall have the child(ren) for the rest of that weekend. This time does not have to be made up. All scheduled school breaks that fall on a Monday not otherwise included in the above list (Memorial Day, Labor Day, Martin Luther King Day, President’s Day, a school In-Service Day, etc.) and any Monday on which there is a scheduled school break shall be spent with the parent whose weekend immediately precedes the Monday; said Monday holidays shall serve to extend the parenting weekend until 7:00 P.M. on Monday evening.

Easter Sunday: The parent designated to have this parenting time shall have parenting time with the child(ren) from:

- a. 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. Sunday, if the child(ren) are not of school age;
- b. 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. Sunday or until 7:00 P.M. the evening prior to the day school resumes for child(ren) of school age.

Spring Break: Spring Break shall begin at 7:00 P.M. on the evening of the last day of school before the school recess, and ends at 7:00 P.M. of the last day before school resumes. Spring Break shall include weekend periods that may occur during the break.

Christmas, 1st Half: The parent designated to have this parenting time shall have parenting time with the children commencing at 9:00 A.M. on the 1st calendar day following the last school day prior to the school holiday recess, and continuing until 7:00 P.M. on December 26th.

Christmas, 2nd Half: The parent designated to have this parenting time shall have parenting time with the children commencing at 7:00 P.M. on December 26th, and continuing until 7:00 P.M. on the evening (weekday or weekend-day) before school resumes after the holiday recess.

6. Summer Parenting Time:

a. Each parent shall have parenting time in alternating weeks for the entire summer. “Summer” is defined as the regularly scheduled period of vacation from school, typically occurring during the months of June, July and August. A “week” is defined as a five (5) day increment commencing on Sunday at 7:00 P.M. and continuing until Friday at 7:00 P.M. and shall not interfere with the other parent’s weekend parenting time as defined herein.

b. In odd years, Mother shall have the first full week beginning on Sunday at 7:00 P.M. after the last day of school. In even years, Father shall have the first full week beginning on Sunday at 7:00 P.M. after the last of school. The holiday of July 4th shall be spent with the parent who is otherwise having parenting time that week. The final week of the rotation shall end at 7:00 P.M. on the last Friday before the first day of school in the fall.

c. Summer school recommended by the school shall be attended.

d. Each parent shall provide the other parent with destination, times of arrival and departure, name/s of responsible adults, and method of travel if traveling outside the parent's community with the children.

7. Moving: For parents residing in different locations that make the above schedule impractical, consult the Court's long distance parenting time schedule and Local Rule 2.19.