

**HAMILTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT**  
**Non-Parent Standard Companionship Order**

**In Re:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Children's Name)

**Case No. F** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Magistrate** \_\_\_\_\_

For purposes of this order, \_\_\_\_\_ shall be designated Residential Party ("R"), and \_\_\_\_\_ shall be designated as Non-residential Party ("NP").

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

D.O.B.: \_\_\_\_\_  
D.O.B.: \_\_\_\_\_  
D.O.B.: \_\_\_\_\_

Critical to the success of any companionship schedule is the absence of conflict between the parties. Studies support that regular and consistent contact between a child and adult family members that is free of conflict is important to the health, growth, and development of a child. Essential to the success of a companionship schedule is the parties' willingness to be flexible, cooperative, and respectful of the changing needs of a child as they develop.

This schedule has been designed to take into consideration the changes needs of children as they develop, as well as family dynamics. When a child is very young or there has been extended time without regular contact, frequent but shorter periods of companionship are necessary to prepare a child for the transition into longer periods of companionship time. As children develop and bonds are formed, extended periods of companionship become more appropriate.

**A. General Considerations**

All times not assigned to the Non-residential Party below shall be assigned to the Residential Party.

Specific exchange times may be modified based on the child's needs, or the needs of the Residential Party or Non-residential Party. The parties may modify days or times, or add additional time/overnights for the Non-residential Party, by agreement of the parties in writing. Parties are to communicate and work cooperatively to ensure the Non-residential Party receives the minimum Court ordered number of companionship hours.

Parties with children in more than one age group should work cooperatively to adapt the schedule to best suit the needs of the children.

## **B. Companionship Schedule By Age:**

### Birth until 14 Years:

The Non-residential Party shall have companionship time on Sundays from 12P-6P.

<b>MON</b>	<b>TUES</b>	<b>WED</b>	<b>THURS</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>SUN</b>
R	R		R	R	R	NR 12P-6P
R	R	R	R	R	R	NR 12P-6P

Each party shall pick up the minor child(ren) from the other party's home at the beginning of their respective companionship times. If the parties do not agree to exchange the child(ren) at each other's homes, all exchanges of the minor child(ren) shall occur at a neutral third-party location (daycare, school, gas station, or grocery store, for example).

Beginning at the child's age of 2 years, the Non-residential Party is entitled to two (2) weeks of extended parenting time (vacation) each calendar year. Extended time may be taken in increments of up to eight (8) days until the child(ren) reaches 6 years old. At age 6, extended time may be taken in increments of up to two (2) weeks. Extended time shall be exercised during the summer, the child's winter break or spring break, or other appropriate times that do not interfere with the child's school schedule, unless otherwise agreed by the parties. Extended time must be exercised in accordance with Section C below.

### 14 Years to 18 Years:

Children age 14 and above may set their own schedule with the Non-residential Party. If the Non-residential Party is a parent, the schedule shall be a minimum of two weekends a month from Friday at 6PM until Sunday at 6PM.

The Non-residential Party is entitled to two (2) weeks of extended parenting time (vacation) each calendar year. Extended time may be taken in increments of up to 2 weeks. Extended time shall be exercised during the summer, the child's winter break or spring break, or other appropriate times that do not interfere with the child's school schedule, unless otherwise agreed by the parties. Extended time must be exercised in accordance with Section C below.

## **C. Use of Extended Time**

Parties are entitled to annual extended time with the child(ren) to be used during breaks from school (in accordance with Section B above). Extended time shall not be used in any malicious manner to eliminate or undermine the other party's parenting/companionship time. Neither party may remove the child(ren) from school to exercise extended parenting time, unless otherwise agreed by both parties.

The vacationing party must notify the other party via email or text message at least thirty (30) days in advance of the first day of their proposed vacation time. A party must only give NOTICE of extended parenting time; a party does not REQUEST or ASK PERMISSION for use of extended time. If both parties wish to exercise the same date(s) for extended time, the party who first properly notified the other, via email or text message, is granted the extended time.

If either party intends to leave Cincinnati's Tristate Area during their extended time, the party shall provide the other party with the following information regarding travel plans at least one week prior to departure: destination, accommodations/where the child(ren) will be staying, method of travel (including flight, train, or bus, information), and contact information where the child(ren) can be reached.

All expenses incurred on vacation (except emergency medical expenses of the child(ren)) are the responsibility of the vacationing party.

#### **D. Holiday Time**

Holidays with each party shall be shared by agreement of the parties. The parties shall work cooperatively to ensure that the minor child celebrates a reasonable number of holidays throughout the year with the Non-residential Party. This may include time individually with the Non-residential Party and the minor child, or may include inclusion of the Non-residential Party in holidays or special gatherings with the Residential Party's family. In the event the parties are unable to agree as to holidays, either party may file a motion with the Court to determine the issue.

General provisions regarding holidays:

- If Halloween occurs on different nights in each party's neighborhood, the child may participate in both celebrations.
- If the Residential Party and Non-residential Party are same sex, and are parents to the minor child, Residential Party will have holiday time from 10A to 8P on Mother's Day/Father's Day (whichever applies) in odd numbered years, and Non-residential Party will have holiday time from 10A to 8P in even numbered years.
- Parties may celebrate additional days of special meaning in which the child(ren) should be permitted to participate. These days of special meaning include, but are not limited to, a party's wedding, extended family birthday celebrations, anniversaries, funerals, religious holidays, and cultural holidays. Parties should discuss these special days as they arise, and cooperate to ensure the child(ren) are included in days of special meaning with either party.

#### **E. Order of precedence for conflicts in companionship time**

1. Holiday time
2. Extended time
3. Regular time

## F. General Provisions

1. The Residential Party shall not establish residence for the minor child(ren) outside the contiguous counties of Hamilton County, Ohio (i.e. Butler, Warren, Clermont, Kenton, Campbell, Boone, or Dearborn) without a Court order or an agreement signed by both parties that is filed with the Court.
2. If either party desires to relocate, the relocating party must notify the Court of their intent to relocate and provide the Court with a new residence address promptly. Said notice shall be filed with Juvenile Court Clerk, who will forward a copy to the Clerk of Courts and the other parent, except as provided in Ohio Revised Code section 3109.051(G)(2)(3) and (4). Upon receipt of the Notice, the Court, on its own motion or the motion of the non-relocating party, may schedule a hearing with notice to both parties to determine whether it is in the best interest of the minor child(ren) to revise the companionship schedule for the minor child(ren).
3. Each party shall keep the other notified of any change in contact information. Current information for each party is as follows:

Residential Party Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Residential Party Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Residential Party Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Residential Party Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Residential Party Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Residential Party Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Makeup days shall be given if there is an emergency that prevents the child(ren), non-residential party, or residential party from visiting at the scheduled time. Makeup days shall also be given if the residential party denies companionship time without just cause. All makeup days shall be rescheduled and exercised within thirty (30) days.
5. Both parties are entitled to reasonable telephone contact with the child(ren) when they are with the other party. Reasonable contact is defined as one phone call per day. Phone communication shall not occur during the child(ren)'s school hours or after the child(ren)'s bedtime.
6. Both parties have the duty to immediately notify the other of any significant medical issues that arise with the child(ren) during their companionship time. Significant is defined as matters requiring medical intervention or assessment.
7. The party who has the child(ren) is responsible for getting them to and from school, medical appointments, and scheduled activities during their companionship time.

8. Discipline

Parties shall consult with each other regarding consistent and appropriate forms of discipline. The party with whom the child(ren) are in residence at that time shall make the day-to-day decisions regarding discipline and shall advise the other party immediately of his or her serious concerns about the minor child(ren)'s behavior. The parties shall strive to maintain consistent methods of discipline in the child(ren)'s best interest. Neither party shall impose any form of discipline that interferes with the other party's companionship time, without that party's consent.

9. Mediation

In an effort to implement the provisions of this Shared Parenting Plan, the parents shall, in the event of any major disagreement between them relating to the minor child(ren) and prior to any court hearing, attend co-parenting counseling, mediation and/or non-binding arbitration with qualified individuals knowledgeable about the subject matter on which they disagree in an effort to resolve all disagreements that they themselves are unable to resolve. If parties are unable to afford private alternative dispute resolution, the court will provide for 1 (one) mediation session before going before the Magistrate or Judge. The parties may file the appropriate motions prior to the completion of the process chosen. However, no trial shall be held, except by order of the Court, until the process is completed.

10. Any keeper of any record who knowingly fails to comply with this plan, or a division (H) of section 3109.051 of the Ohio Revised Code, and any school official or employee who knowingly fails to comply with this order or division (J) of section 3109.051 of the Ohio Revised Code is in contempt of Court.

11. Non-compliance by a parent/party with this plan may result in a finding of contempt resulting in thirty (30) days to ninety (90) days incarceration, a \$250.00 to \$1,000.0 fine, and an award of the moving party's attorney fees and costs.

12. Other provisions:

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Print: Residential Party      Date

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Print: Non-residential Party      Date

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Signature: Residential Party      Date

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Signature: Non-residential Party      Date

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Magistrate

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Judge