

PHASE-IN PARENTING SCHEDULE

Darke County Common Pleas Court

In cases where parent and child do not have a relationship, including circumstances involving very young children, it is in the child's best interests that parenting time with the non-custodial parent be introduced on a limited basis

1. Unless the parties agree otherwise, or subject to a modifying order, introductory parenting time shall be as follows:
 - a. Parenting time shall occur once a week away from the custodial parent's home at a neutral site, such as a suitable relative of the non-custodial parent or a mutual friend of the parties.
 - b. The non-custodial parent must be willing to follow these rules.
 - c. The child shall not be removed from the relative or friend's home during the parenting time.
 - d. No alcoholic beverages or substances of abuse shall be used during the parenting time or prior thereto.
 - e. Parenting time shall be for a three (3) hour period and shall be on a day of custodial parent's choice and time, unless this conflicts with non-custodial parent's work schedule. In such case, if the custodial parent cannot choose another non-conflicting time, then the non-custodial parent shall select the parenting time.
 - f. Introductory parenting time shall continue for four (4) weeks. If the non-custodial parent misses any parenting time, the introductory parenting time shall continue until three (3) consecutive weeks of parenting time have occurred. This shall be known as the **First Introductory Phase of Parenting Time**.
2. Upon completion of the First Introductory Phase, the non-custodial parent shall exercise parenting time one (1) day a week for six (6) hours for four (4) weeks. This pattern shall continue beyond four weeks until three (3) consecutive weeks of parenting have occurred. This shall be known as the **Second Introductory Phase of Parenting Time**.
3. Upon completion of the Second Phase of Parenting Time, the non-custodial parent shall be permitted to exercise overnight parenting time with the child one (1) day every other week. The non-custodial parent's parenting time shall commence at 10:00 a.m. and shall end at 10:00 a.m. the following day, unless the parties agree on another time. This parenting schedule shall continue for six (6) weeks. The non-custodial parent shall also be permitted to exercise parenting time each Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., if his or her work schedule permits. The choice of the day for the overnight parenting time shall follow the selection process set out in the First Introductory Phase. This shall be known as the **Third Introductory Phase of Parenting Time**.
4. After successful completion of the three phases, the non-custodial parent shall exercise parenting time in accordance with the court's Standard Schedule for Parenting time or the parenting schedule agreed upon by the parties.
5. Nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting a different phase-in parenting schedule based on a mutual agreement of the parties.