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 BRENDAN ESHIELDS  
 CLERK AND RECORDER  
 BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
 FILED

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS**

**SUGGESTED STANDARD VISITATION GUIDELINE**

(Effective January 4, 2021)

This Suggested Standard Visitation Guideline does not apply retroactively. Adoption of this Guideline is not a change of circumstance that may serve as the basis for modification of a prior order related to visitation. Any order or decree issued prior to January 1, 2021, will continue to operate under any previous Standard Visitation Schedule adopted by the Court at the time of its entry.

The noncustodial parent is granted regular visitation on alternating weekends beginning on the first Friday following entry of the Decree of Divorce unless a previous order states otherwise. Alternate weekend visitation shall begin at the time the minor child(ren) is/are released from school, or, if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school, at 3:30 p.m. and shall end at the beginning of the school day on Monday following the weekend or at 7:30 a.m. if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school.

Mid-week visitation shall be one evening each week and shall begin at the time the minor child(ren) is/are released from school, or, if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school, at 3:30 p.m. and shall end at the beginning of the school day on the following day or at 7:30 a.m. if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school. If the parties are unable to agree on the day of the week on which the evening visit will occur, it will take place on Tuesday.

Holidays and special occasion visitation as set forth below will take precedence over regular weekend visitation, mid-week visitation and summer visitation. If a shorter period of visitation falls during a longer period of visitation, the longer period of visitation takes precedence. If at least one child is of school age, and one or more children is younger than school age, the exchange of all children between parents shall be at the time specified for school age children. Exchange of children shall be at the time of normal and traditional in-person public school hours for the school district where the children reside whether the children are attending school in person, or virtually or attending home school.

<u>HOLIDAY</u>	<u>ODD YEARS</u>	<u>EVEN YEARS</u>
Spring Break	Parent 1	Parent 2
Easter Weekend	Parent 2	Parent 1
Mother's Day Weekend	Parent 1	Parent 1
Memorial Day Holiday	Parent 1	Parent 2
Father's Day Weekend	Parent 2	Parent 2

Independence Day (to include overnight)	Parent 2	Parent 1
Labor Day Holiday	Parent 1	Parent 2
Halloween (to include overnight)	Parent 1	Parent 2
Thanksgiving Holiday	Parent 2	Parent 1
Christmas Holiday - Beginning of Break to December 27	Parent 1	Parent 2
Christmas Holiday - December 27 to end of Break	Parent 2	Parent 1
Child(ren)'s Birthday	Parent 2	Parent 1

**UNLESS OTHERWISE AGREED BY THE PARTIES:**

AGREED VISITATION. The parties may agree to any period of visitation they may choose. The parties are encouraged to agree to additional periods of visitation.

WEEKEND VISITATION OR HOLIDAY VISITATION (unless otherwise noted herein) shall begin at the time the minor child(ren) is/are released from school, or, if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school, at 3:30 p.m. and shall end at the beginning of the school day on Monday following the weekend or at 7:30 a.m. if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school. Weekend Visitation shall continue throughout the summer, but is superseded by any holiday or special occasion visitation as listed in this schedule.

SPRING BREAK as scheduled in the school district where the child(ren) resides (whether the child(ren) is/are in school or not) will be alternated between the parents, with Parent 2 having Spring Break in even-numbered years and Parent 1 having Spring Break in odd-numbered years. Spring Break shall begin on the day school is released for the holiday, or, if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school, at 3:30 p.m. and shall end at the beginning of the school day on Monday following the weekend at the end of Spring Break or at 7:30 a.m. if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school.

EASTER WEEKEND shall begin at the time the minor child(ren) is/are released from school, or, if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school, at 3:30 p.m. on Friday and shall end

at the beginning of the school day on Monday following the weekend or at 7:30 a.m. if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school.

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND shall begin at the time the minor child(ren) is/are released from school, or, if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school, at 3:30 p.m. on Friday and shall end at the beginning of the school day on Monday following the weekend or at 7:30 a.m. if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school.

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY shall begin at the time the minor child(ren) is/are released from school, or, if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school, at 3:30 p.m. on Friday and shall end at the beginning of the school day on Tuesday following the weekend or at 7:30 a.m. if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school.

FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND shall begin at the time the minor child(ren) is/are released from school, or, if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school, at 3:30 p.m. on Friday and shall end at the beginning of the school day on Monday following the weekend or at 7:30 a.m. if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school.

INDEPENDENCE DAY VISITATION begins at 7:30 a.m. on July 4<sup>th</sup> and ends at 7:30 a.m. on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY shall begin at the time the minor child(ren) is/are released from school, or, if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school, at 3:30 p.m. on Friday and shall end at the beginning of the school day on Tuesday following the weekend or at 7:30 a.m. if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school.

If HALLOWEEN falls on a day when school is in session, the parent entitled to visitation shall begin visitation at the time school dismisses for the day and end at the beginning of school the following morning if it is a school day or at 7:30 a.m. if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school. If school is not in session and the parent entitled to have the child(ren) Halloween does not otherwise have the child(ren) on that day, visitation shall be from 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. on the following day.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY shall begin at the time the minor child(ren) is/are released from school, or, if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school, at 3:30 p.m. on the day school is released for the holiday and shall end at the beginning of the school day on Monday following the weekend or at 7:30 a.m. if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school.

CHRISTMAS (odd-numbered years): Parent 1 shall have the Christmas holiday commencing at the time the minor child(ren) is/are released from school, or, if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school, at 3:30 p.m. on the day school dismisses for the Christmas break and continuing until 10:00 a.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December. Parent 2 shall have the Christmas holiday commencing at 10:00 a.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December and shall end at the beginning of the first school day following the Christmas vacation or at 7:30 a.m. if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school.

CHRISTMAS (even-numbered years): Parent 2 shall have the Christmas holiday commencing at the time the minor child(ren) is/are released from school, or, if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school, at 3:30 p.m. on the day school dismisses for the Christmas break and continuing until 10:00 a.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December. Parent 1 shall have the Christmas holiday commencing at 10:00 a.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December and shall end at the beginning of the first school day following Christmas vacation or at 7:30 a.m. if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school.

CHILD(REN)'S BIRTHDAY: If the child(ren)'s birthday falls on a day when school is in session, the parent entitled to visitation on the child(ren)'s birthday shall begin visitation at the time school dismisses for the day until 8:00 p.m. If school is not in session and the parent entitled to have the child(ren) for the child(ren)'s birthday visitation does not otherwise have the child(ren) on that day, visitation shall be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. All siblings including half siblings shall be allowed to attend the birthday visitation.

If school is in session, the parent with physical custody exercising visitation shall be required to supervise the child(ren) to make certain that school assignments and homework are complete and the child(ren) is/are prepared for school.

If school sessions are virtual rather than in-person, the traditional in-person school schedule shall control the time that visitation or holidays are to begin and end. If virtual school is scheduled during any time other than the traditional in-person schedule, the parent with physical custody shall see that the child/children attend all virtual school sessions.

### **SUMMER VISITATION**

When the oldest child is under 5 years of age, the noncustodial parent shall have extended visitation of two weeks beginning the second Monday in the month of June, two weeks beginning the second Monday in July, and one week beginning the first Monday in August. THIS VISITATION IS NOT SUBJECT TO WEEKEND VISITATION BY THE CUSTODIAL PARENT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TWO-WEEK PERIODS, NOR IS IT SUBJECT TO MID-WEEK VISITS BY THE CUSTODIAL PARENT.

When the oldest child is 5 years of age or older, the noncustodial parent shall have extended summer visitation (with all the children of the parties) of five consecutive weeks each year beginning on July 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. THIS VISITATION **IS** SUBJECT TO ALTERNATING WEEKEND VISITATION AND MID-WEEK VISITATION BY THE CUSTODIAL PARENT **UNLESS** THE NONCUSTODIAL PARENT TAKES THE CHILD(REN) ON A VACATION TRIP OUT OF TOWN. LIKEWISE, THE CUSTODIAL PARENT SHALL HAVE THE SAME PRIVILEGES FOR OUT-OF-TOWN TRIPS DURING HIS OR HER PORTION OF THE SUMMER WITH THE CHILD(REN). THE NONCUSTODIAL AND THE CUSTODIAL MAY TAKE THE CHILD(REN) OUT OF TOWN ONLY FOR TWO WEEKS FOR THE

SUMMER VISITATION AND DURING THAT TWO WEEK PERIOD, THE OTHER PARENT SHALL NOT HAVE ALTERNATING WEEKEND VISITATION AND MID-WEEK VISITATION. EITHER PARENT MAY TRAVEL OUT OF TOWN WITH THE CHILDREN FOR UP TO TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS DURING THE SUMMER DURING WHICH TIME THE OTHER PARENT SHALL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ALTERNATING WEEKEND OR MIDWEEK VISITATION.

During extended summer visitation the custodial parent is responsible for transportation for periods of visitation.

**VISITATION SCHEDULE FOR NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR**

<b><u>INTERCESSION</u></b>	<b><u>EVEN YEARS</u></b> (First half of Intercession.)	<b><u>ODD YEARS</u></b> (First half of Intercession.)
February Intercession	Parent 2	Parent 1
May Intercession	Parent 1	Parent 2
Summer Intercession	Parent 2	Parent 1
October Intercession	Parent 1	Parent 2

Each Intercession shall be divided to allow each parent to enjoy one half of each Intercession.

The parent having visitation first in accordance with the schedule noted above shall have visitation which shall begin at the time the minor child(ren) is/are released from school, or, if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school, at 3:30 p.m. on the day school dismisses for the Intercession break and continuing until 10:00 a.m. on the day which is the midpoint of the Intercession break. The parent having visitation during the second half of the Intercession break shall enjoy the Intercession break commencing at 10:00 a.m. on the day which is the midpoint of the Intercession break and shall end at the beginning of the first school day following the Intercession break or at 7:30 a.m. if the minor child(ren) is/are not attending school.

CHILD SUPPORT: Administrative Order No. 10 of the Arkansas Supreme Court will govern child support.

Both parents shall each provide proof income for a previous calendar year whenever requested in writing by certified mail by the other parent, but not more than one (1) time per year.



In the event that the either party receives regular bonuses, commissions or other monies as a result of employment that are included in the definition of gross income or a one time income included with the definition of gross income, and either parent has requested proof of income as noted above, each shall prepare and exchange with the other an Affidavit of Financial Means reflecting current gross income including the supporting documents reflecting the gross income. From this information, the parties will prepare a Worksheet. If a change of child support is indicated and the parties agree, they may submit a petition for modification by agreement and an agreed order for change of child support with the Worksheet for consideration by the Court.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Unless otherwise ordered in the Decree or other Court Order, transportation shall be the responsibility of the noncustodial parent, except for summer visitation. During extended summer visitation, the custodial parent is responsible for transportation for periods of visitation.

**RECORDS AND ACTIVITIES:** The custodial parent shall timely provide the noncustodial parent with copies of the child(ren)'s school records, including but not limited to report cards, interim reports, picture order forms, and discipline reports and shall keep the noncustodial parent informed of school and extracurricular activities. The custodial parent shall inform the school that the noncustodial parent is to have access to records and information regarding the minor child(ren) equal to that of the custodial parent and shall sign any releases of information or other documents required by the school to accomplish this. The obligation of the custodial parent to provide this information does not relieve the noncustodial parent of the obligation to keep informed of the child(ren)'s progress, status, and activities by his or her own independent efforts. This procedure shall also be followed for any extra-curricular or non-school activities in which the child(ren) participates. The noncustodial parent has an obligation to attend functions and support the child(ren)'s participation in school, school activities, and other extra-curricular activities.

**MEDICAL TREATMENT AND BILLING:** The custodial parent shall timely provide the noncustodial parent with all information regarding the child(ren)'s medical and health status, including the names and addresses of all medical providers and access to all medical and health related records or documents, including the signing of any releases of information or other documents required by the medical provider to accomplish this. Either parent seeking medical treatment for the child(ren) shall notify the other parent of such treatment prior to receiving the treatment, if possible. In an emergency situation where it is not possible to notify the other parent before the treatment, the parent seeking the treatment for the child(ren) shall notify the other parent as soon as possible after the immediate emergency is resolved, and in no event shall the notification be later than 24 hours after treatment is received.

Where the Divorce Decree, Property Settlement Agreement or Court Order requires each parent to pay for one-half of medical bills incurred for the minor child(ren), the parent seeking treatment for the child(ren) shall provide a copy of the billing, receipt or other related documentation to the other parent within ten days of the treatment. The parent carrying insurance coverage for the child(ren) shall then process the claim through the insurance carrier and shall

provide the other parent with a copy of the Explanation of Benefits from the insurance carrier within ten days of receipt. The parents will have thirty days from receipt of the Explanation of Benefits to pay their one-half of the medical bill. In the event the claim is not to be processed through insurance (for co-payments or similar situations), the parent receiving the bill will have thirty days from receipt of the bill to pay one-half of the bill. It is each parent's responsibility to hold the other harmless from liability or obligation for any medical expense for the minor child(ren).

**AUDIO/VISUAL CONTACT:** The noncustodial parent may communicate with the child(ren) by audio/visual device daily, and if the parties are unable to agree on a time for said contact, the visit will be between 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. If this time conflicts with extra-curricular activities of the child(ren) which are scheduled by someone other than the custodial parent, the audio/visual visit shall take place at the conclusion of the activity and the custodial parent shall inform the noncustodial parent of the time the child(ren) will be home after the activity, and the audio/visual visit will take place within the 30 minute time period immediately following the arrival home.

**CALENDAR:** Two weeks prior to the beginning of the public school year in the school district where the child(ren) reside, Parent 1 and Parent 2 SHALL exchange calendars indicating visitation days for the entire year. The two benefits to be gained from this exchange are (1) the child(ren) can see from the calendar when he or she will be with each parent; and (2) any misunderstandings or conflicts regarding visitation can be worked out well in advance of the actual visitation. If, after the original Decree of Divorce, a dispute arises regarding visitation which requires the Court's involvement, a visitation calendar will be attached to any subsequent Court Order.

**TATTOOS AND BODY PIERCINGS:** A minor shall not be permitted to be tattooed or to have body piercings unless both parents consent in writing.

**NON-COHABITATION:** Neither party shall co-habit with any other person unless related by blood or marriage in the presence of the minor child(ren), nor shall they allow any third parties to co-habit in their residence or place of lodging while the child(ren) is/are present.

**ALCOHOL AND DRUGS:** Neither party shall be impaired by alcohol or drugs in the presence of the minor child(ren), nor shall they allow any third parties to do so.

**DEROGATORY REMARKS:** Neither party shall make derogatory or disparaging remarks about the other party (or members of the other party's family) in the presence or earshot of the minor child(ren), nor on any social media, website or other digital public forum, nor shall they allow any third parties to do so.


**LOCATION OF CHILD(REN):** Any party in possession of the minor child(ren) who intends to have the child(ren) at a location other than their regular place of residence or the regular place of residence of an immediate family member for an extended period of time (more than two

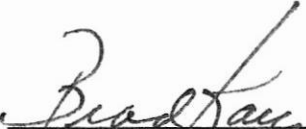
nights), shall notify the other party of the location where the child(ren) will be staying, the duration of the trip, and a contact phone number to be used by the other party in case of emergencies only.

**PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIRD PARTIES:** Parents shall be responsible for the conduct of third parties who come into contact with the child/children as a result of the parent. It is the parent's responsibility to avoid exposure of the child/children to inappropriate conduct.

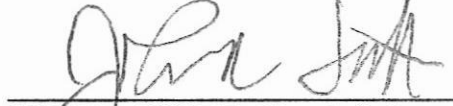
**THE PURPOSE OF THIS VISITATION SCHEDULE IS TO PROVIDE THE PARENTS WITH A GUIDE FOR WORKING OUT VISITATION WHICH MEETS THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD(REN). IT IS NOT A WEAPON TO BE USED BY OR AGAINST EITHER PARENT, BUT IF THE PARTIES ARE UNABLE TO OTHERWISE AGREE, IT MUST BE FOLLOWED.**

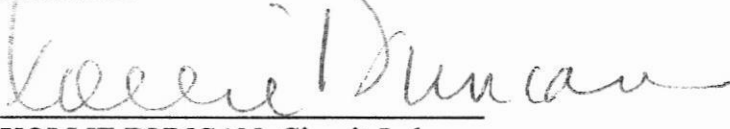
**ADOPTED THIS 4th DAY OF JANUARY, 2021.**

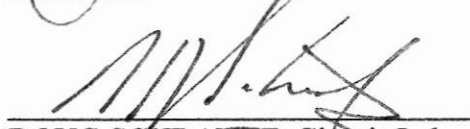
  
ROBIN GREEN, Circuit Judge  
Division 1


  
BRAD KARREN, Circuit Judge  
Division 2

  
THOMAS E. SMITH, Circuit Judge  
Division 3

  
JOHN R. SCOTT, Circuit Judge  
Division 4

  
KOLLIE DUNCAN, Circuit Judge  
Division 5

  
DOUG SCHRANTZ, Circuit Judge  
Division 6

  
CHRISTINE HORWART, Circuit Judge  
Division 7