

# PARENTING TIME

Parents are in the best position to decide what is good for their children. Decisions that parents make freely and voluntarily concerning custodial and parenting time arrangements for their children are often respected. The court is committed to helping parents make those decisions. However, when parents cannot agree on parenting time issues or any issue related to their children, the court will make the decision based on the best interest factors.

The best interest factors are set forth at MCL 722.23 . They can be found [www.courts.michigan.gov](http://www.courts.michigan.gov) or typing in *Friend of the Court Bureau* and following the prompts.

The Friend of the Court Bureau has published the Michigan Parenting Time Guidelines which addresses many of the issues associated with establishing and modifying parenting time. The guidelines can be found at [www.courts.michigan.gov](http://www.courts.michigan.gov).

Parents most often know best what the Holiday Schedule should look like and how they want their children to celebrate the holidays. The Manistee County Friend of the Court has established a local policy regarding Holiday Parenting Time when parents cannot agree and to provide guidance for parents as to what could be considered reasonable parenting time during the holidays.

## **HOLIDAYS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

**New Year's Day** Begins on Dec. 31 at 6:00pm and ends on Jan. 1 at 6:00pm

**Easter Sunday** Begins at 9:00am and ends at 7:00pm

**Memorial Day** Begins at 9:00am and ends at 7:00pm

**Fourth of July** Begins at 9:00am and ends the following morning at 9:00 am

**Labor Day** Begins at 9:00am and ends at 7:00pm

- Halloween** Begins at 6:00pm and ends at 8:00pm
- Thanksgiving** Begins on Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day  
at 6:00pm and ends on Friday morning at 9:00am
- Christmas Eve** Begins on Dec. 22 at 6:00pm and ends on Dec. 24 at 6:00pm
- Christmas Day** Begins on Dec. 24 at 6:00pm and ends on December 26 at 9:00am
- New Year's Eve** Begins on Dec. 30 at 6:00pm and ends on December 31 at 6:00pm
- Child's Birthday** Begins at 6:00pm and ends at 9:00pm
- Mother's Day - (Weekend)** Begins on Friday at 6:00pm and ends on Sunday at 6:00pm
- Father's Day - (Weekend)** Begins on Friday at 6:00pm and ends on Sunday at 6:00pm

**Other Religious Holidays:** The above holiday parenting time schedule includes the most common government and religious holidays recognized by most school districts in the area. If your family practices other religious holidays the holidays should be identified specifically, and times set.

**Spring break and Christmas Break:** Parents should defer to the school district schedule in which the children attend. The school Break commences with the day school is recessed until 6:00pm the day before school is scheduled to resume.

**Summer Vacation for school Age Children.** Often, the summer is shared equally between the parents. The summer can present challenges for the younger children who are not yet ready for the schedule and for the older children who may have summer jobs or extracurricular events in the summer. Parents are encouraged to plan according to the best interests of the child.

**The holiday schedule has priority over the regular parenting time schedule.**