

State of Kansas  
Twentieth Judicial District  
(Barton, Ellsworth, Rice, Russell & Stafford Counties)

Visitation Guidelines

It is usually in the child's best interest for each parent to have frequent, meaningful and continuing access to their children. A visitation agreement made by both parents is preferred by a court imposed solution. However, if one or both parents are unable to agree on visitation, the following guidelines shall be used in most cases. In situations where the nonresidential parent may not have had on-going contact with the children, initial visitation may be shorter. Further, these provisions may not be applicable to very young children or in situations where geographical distance between parents make compliance impossible. The parents, in exercising visitation, should be flexible and adapt to the circumstances, the child's age, on going activities, and any religious holidays not set out below. Be aware these are only guidelines and the court may deviate if unusual factual circumstances apply.

If the parties do not agree the following shall be considered the MINIMUM visitation to which the nonresidential parent shall be entitled:

- 1) Every other weekend from 6:00pm Friday until 6:00pm Sunday.
- 2) In years ending in odd number:
  - a) The night before each child's birthday;
  - b) Memorial Day weekend from 6:00pm Friday until 6:00pm Monday;
  - c) Independence Day from 6:00pm July 3<sup>rd</sup> until 6:00pm July 5<sup>th</sup>;
  - d) Thanksgiving holiday from 6:00pm Wednesday until 6:00pm Sunday;
  - e) From 6:00pm December 27<sup>th</sup> until 6:00pm on the day before school starts for the second semester.
- 3) In years ending in an even number:
  - a) Each child's birthday;
  - b) Easter weekend from 6:00pm Good Friday until 6:00pm Easter Sunday;
  - c) Labor Day weekend from 6:00pm Friday until 6:00pm Monday;
  - d) Halloween evening from 6:00pm until 9:00pm;
  - e) Christmas holiday from 6:00pm on the day school is out until 6:00pm on December 27<sup>th</sup>.
- 4) If the parties live within the same community, the noncustodial parent shall have visitation one night a week from 5:00pm until 8:00pm.
- 5) Every year on the nonresidential parent's birthday and Mother's or Father's Day weekend, whichever is applicable to the nonresidential parent.

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- 6) In the summertime for child(ren) who are attending school:
  - a) Two (2) non-consecutive three (3) week periods to be determined by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The first three (3) week period to start one (1) week after the end of school and the second three (3) week period to end no later than one (1) week before the beginning of school.
- 7) There shall be no weekend visitation by the residential parent during the period the extended summer visitation is exercised.
- 8) If court ordered child support obligation is current and the first three (3) week summer visitation is completed, child support shall abate by two-thirds (2/3) for the month of July. If the second three (3) week summer visitation is completed, child support shall abate two-thirds (2/3) for the month of September.

Unless other arrangements are made, the parents shall agree to alternate or share in picking up the child(ren) at the times specified and return them at the times specified. The parents shall have the child(ren) ready for visitation at the time they are to be picked up and shall be present at the home to receive the child(ren) at the time they are returned.

The nonresidential parent shall give the residential parent two (2) days prior notice if he/she does not intend to exercise visitation unless an emergency situation exists, in which case he/she will give such notice as is possible under the circumstances.

Each parent shall supply the other with his/her current address and telephone number. Each parent shall allow liberal but reasonable telephone and mail privileges with the child(ren).

The residential parent, shall provide copies of all school and medical reports within ten (10) days of their receipt and shall immediately notify the other parent in the event of a medical emergency. The residential parent shall inform the nonresidential parent of school and/or social functions permitting parental participation within 24 hours of receipt of notification of such function.

Neither visitation nor child support is to be withheld due to either parents' failure to comply with a court order.

If the parties mutually agree to change the custody provision of their Decree of Divorce, they shall contact their attorneys and petition the Court to approve and order that change. In the event that the parties do not obtain a court order the Court shall not be bound by any agreement of the parties.