# PARENTING TIME OVERVIEW

The parenting time schedule is the primary item in most parenting plans. When designing your schedule, we recommend that you consider school and work schedules, distance between your homes, your child(ren)'s needs, and other relevant matters. Here are some other things to think about:

## Parenting Time Schedule

- Do you want to have the same schedule during the school year and summer?
- Should the plan change or be revisited at certain stages in your child(ren)'s life? For example, when they start school.
- Parenting time must be defined so a third party (such as a judge) can tell when parenting time for each parent is to take place. The day/time of parenting time exchanges must be defined in your plan. For example, "Mondays at the start of school or 9:00 a.m. if it is a non-school day".
- Do you want to address birthdays/holidays/special days in your parenting plan, and if so, which ones? Should you address a few select holidays such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Mother's and Father's Day, or address several? Holidays not identified in the parenting plan will fall where they may in the schedule.
- Do you prefer to have certain holidays every year or alternate holidays in odd/even years?
- Holidays can be disruptive to the regular schedule, so plot out your schedule to see if it is practical.
- Both parents will lose some parenting time due to the other parent's holiday parenting time. How will this affect the schedule, if at all?
- Do you want uninterrupted extended parenting time for vacations or other events? If so, how much time and how will scheduling be done?
- How will parenting time exchanges that do not take place at school be handled? Will you meet at a neutral location? Will the parent who has the child(ren) or the receiving parent transport the child(ren) to the other parent's home?

## Other Things to Consider

- If there is an important decision to be made regarding your child(ren)'s health, education, religious upbringing, or extracurricular activities, and you cannot agree, how will the matter be resolved?
- What school/school system will your child(ren) attend? If your child(ren) will attend a private school, how will tuition be handled?
- If a child is ill or school is canceled, typically the "on duty" parent is responsible for the child(ren). Do you need to discuss another plan?
- Will the "off duty" parent have the right of first refusal if the "on duty" parent will be out of town overnight or longer?
- Many other items may be discussed in mediation as well.

This is your plan for your child(ren) and can be designed for your family in such a way that allows both parents to have the opportunity to have a loving and beneficial relationship with the child(ren). There is no perfect plan, and no plan can predict every single contingency that may arise. The questions above are designed to help you start thinking about some of the issues which, at a minimum, must be addressed in a parenting plan. If you have circumstances that are unique to your family, please mention them at mediation to see if language can be added to address your concerns.

Note: We recommend that you review the Nebraska Parenting Act information brochure prior to mediation. The brochure is sent by the court when a legal proceeding is started and can also be found at https://nebraskajudicial.gov/nebraska-parenting-act-information-brochure-english.