

**CARROLL COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT**

**GENERAL DIVISION**

**LONG-DISTANCE PARENTING ORDERS AND INCIDENTAL RULES**

A. The following shall be applicable in the cases where parents reside more than 100 miles (one-way) from each other, unless the parents otherwise agree.

B. The non-residential/non-custodial parent shall be afforded (8) weeks of companionship with the child(ren) during the traditional summer school vacation months of June, July and August. For a child(ren) age (15) and older, this companionship time shall be expected to take place as set forth herein, taking into account the wishes and needs of the child(ren), the child(ren)'s work schedule, and the child(ren)'s involvement in school, summer or other extra-curricular activities.

1. These visits may occur in blocks of time of (4) weeks. The non-residential/noncustodial parent shall provide advance notice of intent to exercise this companionship of not less than (60) days. The non-residential/non-custodial parent's choice of vacation has priority over the residential/custodial parent's choice, unless the residential/custodial parent's vacation is an annual mandatory shutdown of the place of employment, or unless the residential/custodial parent is required by an employer to give more than (60) days notice of intent to take a vacation and the nonresidential/non-custodial parent has no similar requirement. Likewise, the residential/custodial parent must give the other parent not less than (60) days advance notice of vacations or special plans for the child(ren) to avoid planning conflicts.

2. Summer School necessary for the child(ren) to pass to the next grade, or as recommended by the appropriate school official, must be attended and official notice of such requirement shall be given to the non-residential/non-custodial parent. In the event the non-residential/non-custodial parent elects to exercise their companionship time during summer school, they shall be responsible to make sure that the child(ren) attends summer school as necessary.

3. Each parent must provide the other parent with destination, times of arrival and departure, method of travel, together with emergency telephone or contact numbers, if any extended vacation companionship will be taken away from that parent's residence.

C. The non-residential/non-custodial parent shall be responsible for picking up the child(ren) or otherwise arranging transportation, and paying for the same, at the commencement of companionship. The residential/custodial parent shall be responsible for picking up the child(ren) or otherwise arranging transportation, and paying for the same, at the conclusion of companionship. The parties, if using airlines for said transportation, are encouraged to work together and obtain a round-trip ticket and split the costs.

D. The non-residential/non-custodial parent shall be entitled to (1) additional week during the Christmas holiday and (1) additional week during the Easter break. Christmas companionship

shall commence December 26 through January 1. Easter companionship shall be arranged by the non-residential/non-custodial parent at least (30) days in advance and may include Easter day during odd-numbered years.

E. The non-residential/non-custodial parent shall be entitled to telephone contact in addition to the above companionship rights, with the child(ren) at least twice per week at the nonresidential/non-custodial parent's cost. During such time that the non-residential/noncustodial parent is exercising extended vacation companionship as set forth at Paragraph B(1) above, the residential/custodial parent shall be entitled to similar telephone contact with the child(ren) at least twice per week at the expense of the residential/custodial parent. The Children may initiate communication with their parents as frequently as they wish.

F. These Orders will be modified by the Court if there is good cause shown for such change.

G. Each of the parties shall abide by these Orders in the best interest of the child(ren). Failure of either party to abide by these orders could result in contempt of court sanctions. This includes the Orders that require the residential/custodial parent to take the child(ren) for visitation on the ordered days.

H. Companionship rights granted shall be exercised; companionship not taken is waived. However, companionship not taken on because of actions of the residential/custodial parent is not waived, but accrues and shall be granted within (30) days.

I. The residential/custodial parent shall, to the best of their ability prepare the child(ren) physically and emotionally for all companionship contact.

J. Each parent shall refrain from voicing criticism of the other parent, either in or out of the presence of the child(ren), and shall further do everything in their power to encourage others to refrain from similar conduct.

K. Companionship time shall not be used by either parent to check on the other parent. Neither parent shall interrogate the child(ren) during or following the companionship time as a means to gather information regarding the other parent or activities regarding the other parent.

L. Neither parent shall consume alcohol to excess or use illegal drugs while in the presence of the child(ren).

M. Both parents shall strive for consistency and agreement in all matters regarding the child(ren), including disciplinary matters.

N. The residential/custodial parent shall furnish to the non-residential/non-custodial parent copies of all grade reports, disciplinary notices and/or communications, and information regarding school pictures within (7) days of the receipt of such information, or in a timely manner.

O. Any person transporting a child(ren) for companionship periods established under these rules must possess a valid driver's license, and all child(ren) shall be properly restrained in the manner required by law during such transport.