

EXHIBIT "A"
GRADUATED VISITATION SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION

1. These guidelines are for all cases in which custody or visitation of minor children is an issue.
2. The categories identified in the guidelines are based upon developmental stages of children. The chronological ages are provided for reference.
3. These guidelines are *not meant to provide minimum or maximum access*, but to set forth a standard which can be adjusted depending upon the unique needs and circumstances of each family.
4. Decisions will have to be made for families with more than one child as to whether a single plan or different plans would best meet the needs of all the children.
5. These guidelines were developed from a current review of the relevant literature concerning access, from visitation/access guidelines of other communities and from input of child experts as well as legal professionals in the community.
6. These guidelines assume the following:
 - a. One parent has sole custody or primary physical custody.
 - b. The guidelines identify time for the non-custodial parent and the child. The exception to this is in the Vacation Time in which time is identified for both parents.
 - c. Both parents are fit and proper.
 - d. Both parents are willing and able to parent the child(ren).

PARENT/CHILD ACCESS

1. **Early Infancy (Birth to Age 9 Months)**
 - A. Residential Plan:
 - (1) Birth to Age 4 Months:
 - Three times per week, two hours in length.
 - Preferably in the custodial home or the established child care setting.
 - Overnight not recommended.
 - (2) Age 4 Months to Age 9 Months:
 - Three times per week, three hours in length.
 - Visits away from the custodial home or established child care setting may be initiated.
 - The child to be returned at least one hour before evening bedtime.
 - Overnight not recommended.
 - B. Vacation Time: Defined as a period of uninterrupted time in which the residential plan is suspended; this time applies to both parents, custodial and non-custodial,

on an annual basis. This may occur during anytime of the year with at least thirty days advance notice to the non-vacationing parent.

- Vacation time not recommended for the non-custodial parent at this age.
- Any vacation time taken by the custodial parent should not exceed seven consecutive days away from the non-custodial parent.

C. Holiday Time: Holiday times take precedence over vacation time as well as the regular residential plan. Holidays to be specified by the parents in their plan..

(1) Birth to Age 4 Months:

- Two hours on the holiday.
- Preferably in the custodial home or the established child care setting.

(2) Age 4 Months to Age 9 Months:

- Three hours on the holiday.
- May be away from the custodial home or established child care setting.
- The child to be returned at least one hour before evening bedtime.

D. Phone Access: Not recommended.

2. Later Infancy (Age 9 Months to Age 18 Months)

A. Residential Plan:

(1) Age 9 Months to Age 12 Months:

- Two times per week: one visit, eight hours in length.
other visit, three hours in length.
- The child to be returned at least one hour before evening bedtime.
- Overnight not recommended.

(2) Age 12 Months to Age 18 Months:

- Two eight-hour periods (Saturday and Sunday) during the daytime, on alternating weekends; and,
- One midweek visit each week, three hours in length.
- The child to be returned at least one hour before evening bedtime.
- Overnight not recommended.

B. Vacation Time:

- Vacation time not recommended for the non-custodial parent.
- Any vacation time taken by the custodial parent should not exceed fourteen consecutive days away from the non-custodial parent.
- Periodic physical contact with the non-vacationing parent, if the child is in the vicinity.

C. Holiday Time: Holidays to be specified by the parents in their plan, including the child's birthday.

- Shared or alternated with the custodial parent.
- Eight hours with the non-custodial parent.
- The child to be returned at least one hour before evening bedtime.

- D. Phone Access:
- Brief contact two times per week.
 - Should not interfere with time the child is sleeping.

3. Toddler (Age 18 Months to 3 Years)

- A. Residential Plan:
- Alternate weekends: Saturday morning to Sunday evening; and,
 - One midweek visit each week, three hours in length.
 - The child to be returned at least one hour before evening bedtime.
- B. Vacation Time:
- (1) Age 18 Months to Age 24 Months:
- Two one-week periods separated by at least four weeks.
 - One phone contact to the non-vacationing parent each week initiated by the vacationing parent.
 - Periodic physical contact with the non-vacationing parent, if the child is in the vicinity.
- (2) Age 24 Months to Age 36 Months:
- Two one-week periods separated by at least four weeks.
 - One phone contact to the non-vacationing parent each week initiated by the vacationing parent.
 - Periodic physical contact with the non-vacationing parent, if the child is in the vicinity.
- C. Holiday Time:
- Equally shared or alternated* with the custodial parent.
 - May include overnight.
- D. Phone Access:
- Contact two times per week.
 - Should not interfere with time the child is sleeping.

4. Preschool (Age 3 Years to Age 5 Years)

- A. Residential Plan:
- Alternate weekends: Friday evening to Sunday evening, pick up and drop off being at the same time of the evening; and,
 - One midweek visit each week, four hours in length.
 - The child to be returned at least one hour before evening bedtime.
- B. Vacation Time:
- Two two-week periods separated by at least three weeks.
 - One phone contact to the non-vacationing parent each week *initiated by the vacationing parent.*
 - Periodic physical contact with the non-vacationing parent, if the child is in the vicinity.

- C. Holiday Time:
 - *Equally shared or alternated* with the custodial parent.
 - May include overnight.
- D. Phone Access:
 - Contact two times per week.
 - Should not interfere with time the child is sleeping.

5. Elementary School (Age 5 Years to Age 11 Years)

- A. Residential Plan:
 - Alternate weekends: Friday after school to Sunday evening.
 - The child to be returned at least one hour before evening bedtime.
 - During school year, on alternate weeks: one overnight, from after school to return to school the next morning.
 - During summer school break, on alternate weeks: one twenty-four hour period, including the overnight.
- B. Vacation Time: Vacation time should not interfere with school attendance unless approved by the custodial parent.
 - (1) Age 5 Years to 9 Years:
 - Four weeks, either consecutively or split into two or more segments.
 - One phone contact each week to the non-vacationing parent *initiated by the vacationing parent.*
 - Periodic physical contact with the non-vacationing parent, if the child is in the vicinity.
 - (2) Age 9 Years to 11 Years:
 - Six weeks, either consecutively or split into segments.
 - Phone contact to the non-vacationing parent *initiated by the vacationing parent or child.*
- C. Holiday Time:
 - *Equally shared or alternated* with the custodial parent.
 - Spring, Fall and Christmas breaks from school *divided equally or alternated* between the parents.
- D. Phone Access:
 - Three times per *week initiated by the child or non-custodial parent.*
 - Should not interfere with time the child is sleeping.

6. Junior High or Middle School (Age 11 Years to Age 14 Years)

- A. Residential Plan:
 - Alternate weekends: Friday after school to Sunday evening.
 - The child to be returned at least one hour before evening bedtime.
 - Midweek visit is optional.
- B. Vacation Time: Vacation time should not interfere with school attendance

unless approved by the custodial parent.

- Six weeks, either consecutively or split into segments.
- The child's summer activities will need to be considered in scheduling this time.
- Phone contact to the non-vacationing parent *initiated by the child*.

C. Holiday Time:

- Equally shared or alternated with the custodial parent.
- Spring, Fall and Christmas breaks from school *divided equally or alternated* between the parents.

D. Phone Access:

- Open access as determined by the child and the non-custodial parent.

7. High School (Age 14 Years to Age 18 Years)

A. Residential Plan:

(1) Age 14 Years to Age 16 Years:

- Two weekends per month: Friday evening to Sunday evening (or an equivalent amount of time per month).
- The child's activities and wishes will need to be considered in scheduling this time.

(2) Age 16 Years to Age 18 Years:

- One weekend per month: Friday evening to Sunday evening (or an equivalent amount of time per month).
- The child's wishes, activities and employment should be taken into consideration when scheduling this time.

B. Vacation Time: Vacation time should not interfere with school attendance unless approved by the custodial parent.

(1) Age 14 Years to Age 16 Years:

- Four weeks, or as agreed upon by the child and both parents.
- The child's wishes and summer activities will need to be considered in scheduling this time.

(2) Age 16 Years to Age 18 Years:

- Two weeks, or as agreed upon by the child and the parent.
- The child's wishes, employment and summer activities will need to be considered in scheduling this time.

C. Holiday Time:

- Equally shared or alternated* with the custodial parent.
- Spring, Fall and Christmas breaks from school *divided equally or alternated* between the parents.

D. Phone Access:

- Open access as determined by the child and the non-custodial parent.