

# Mullins Law LLC

(317) 839-9400

1903 Crown Plaza Blvd.  
Plainfield, IN 46168



Welcome to our E-Pamphlet on Parenting Time.

I have put together this e-pamphlet to provide some basic information on parenting time to help you understand some of the basic rights and obligation for a parent under the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines. We recommend you seek personal advice from an attorney as everyone's circumstances and situation is different and an attorney would be able to provide legal advice regarding your specific facts.

## *General Information*

There are two (2) Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines which govern parenting time issues for most people at this time.

- 1) Pre-2013 Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines – Parenting time ordered before July 1, 2013.
- 2) Post 2013 Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines – Parenting time ordered after July 1, 2013.

Parents follow the guidelines in effect at the time parenting time was ordered.

Although the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines changed on July 13, 2013, that does not mean the guidelines you follow changed, unless modified by a court to specifically change to a different guideline.

The Parenting Time Guidelines understand that it is difficult to exercise parenting time when there are two separate households And requires constant communication and cooperating between the two parents to accomplish a smooth parenting time.

# COMMUNICATION

- ❖ Both parents must keep each other informed of their home and work address, telephone number and e-mail address. If this information changes notice to the other parent must be given in writing.
- ❖ The parents cannot use the children to exchange documents or financial information.
- ❖ Communication between parents with child is private, and the parent cannot use the child to report back on the other parents activities.
- ❖ Both parents have a right to reasonable and private telephone time with the child(ren) at a reasonable hour and intervals. Messages left for the child shall be delivered to the child(ren) and a return call allowed.
- ❖ Child(ren) and parent has a right to private communications by e-mail, fax, card, letter, packages and other electronic communications.
- ❖ Parents leaving areas with child must provide the itinerary of travel dates, destination, where parent or child can be reached or the name and phone number of a person who knows the location of the parent or child.



# IMPLEMENTING PARENTING TIME

- ❖ The parent starting their parenting time shall pick the child(ren) up to start their parenting time. No parent has the right to enter the other parent's residence without that parent's permission.

- ❖ The parents have an duty to communicate with the other parent is any circumstances is going to delay the exchange time or change the place previously arranged.
- ❖ It is the duty of the custodial parent to provide the child(ren) with appropriate and adequate clean cloths for the parenting time. The non-custodial parent has a duty to return the cloths clean.
- ❖ Parent share and equal responsibility to making sure parenting time is implemented and the child(ren) shares None of the responsibility or decision making duties.
- ❖ Reasons a parent may not prevent parenting time include but are not limited to the following:
  - The child unjustifiably hesitates or refuses to go.
  - The child has a minor illness.
  - The child has to go somewhere.
  - The child is not home.
  - The noncustodial parent is behind in child support.
  - The custodial parent does not want the child to go.
  - The weather is bad (unless the weather makes travel unsafe).
  - The child has no cloths to wear.
  - The parent failed to meet any conditions established by the other parent.



- ❖ If circumstances resulted in one parent missing their parenting time the missed time shall be made up as soon as possible by both parents finding a mutually acceptable make-up time. In the event an acceptable make-up time cannot be reached then the parent that lost parenting time shall choose the make-up time within one month of the missed time.
- ❖ Additional parenting time. If the situation arises where the child(ren) must be cared for by someone other than a parent or family household member, the parent must first offer the other parent the additional parenting time.



A family household member is a adult person that resides in the same household as the parent and is related by blood, marriage or adoption to the child(ren). The time and distance between the parents must make this arrangement practicable. The parent taking the additional parenting time must provide the transportation, unless the parties agree otherwise. Exercising the parenting time will not affect child support and shall be at no cost. The parent does not have to exercise the additional parenting.

## **HOLIDAY AND EXTENDED PARENTING TIME**

- ❖ Holiday parenting time takes precedent over regular parenting time. Therefore if a parent loses their regular parenting time because it is the other parent's holiday parenting time there is no right to make-up time.
- ❖ Regular parenting time starts after the holiday parenting to has ended. If a parent exercises their parenting time one weekend and exercises holiday parenting time the next weekend and their regular parenting time would be the following weekend (making 3 weekends in a roll) they are entitled to that weekend.
- ❖ Extended parenting time. The non-custodial parent shall give notice of extended parenting time by April 1<sup>st</sup> of that year. If the non-custodial parent does not give notice by April 1<sup>st</sup> the custodial parent has the right to make the selection.
- ❖ Summer parenting time shall take precedent over regular parenting time and over the child(rens) activities, although it is in the child's best interest if activities can continue without interruption. If the parent is exercising parenting time in a location that makes getting the child to their scheduled activities (like in a different state) the parent should arrange for the child to participate in the same activities at their location. things



Parenting time is your child's right and it is the consistent and meaningful contact with both parents, as each have their own means of giving to the child, that help a child develop into a happy, emotionally healthy adult.

The information for this pamphlet was taken from the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines (effective March 1, 2013) and the Parenting Time Guidelines in effect at the time your parenting time was establish/ordered should be reviewed for most of your parenting time questions.