

LAUDERDALE COUNTY, ALABAMA
STANDARD VISITATION GUIDELINES

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2017 AS TO ALL PENDING AND FUTURE CASES. THESE GUIDELINES ARE NOT RETROACTIVE TO CASES ALREADY DISPOSED OF PRIOR TO AUGUST 1, 2017

VISITATION FOR A CHILD FROM BIRTH TO TWO (2) MONTHS

The non-residential parent shall have visitation at the home of the residential parent from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. each Sunday, unless the parties mutually agree upon another location.

VISITATION FOR A CHILD TWO (2) MONTHS TO 12 MONTHS

The non-residential parent shall have visitation at the home of the non-residential parent as follows:

- (A) Every Tuesday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- (B) Every Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- (C) Every other Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- (D) On the birthday of the child and the birthday of the non-residential parent from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- (E) Easter Day from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (F) 4th of July from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (G) Thanksgiving Day from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (H) Christmas Day from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (I) The Father shall have the child(ren) on Father's Day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Mother shall have the child(ren) on Mother's Day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- (J) Labor Day from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (K) Memorial Day from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (L) Halloween in even numbered years from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

VISITATION FOR A CHILD 12 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS

The non-residential parent shall have visitation at the home of the non-residential parent as follows:

- (A) Every other Friday from 6:00 p.m. to Sunday at 6:00 p.m.
- (B) Every Tuesday from 4:00 p.m. to Wednesday at 8:00 a.m.
- (C) On the birthday of the child and the birthday of the non-residential parent, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- (D) Easter Day from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (E) 4th of July from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (F) Thanksgiving day from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (G) Christmas Day at 3:00 p.m. to December 26 at 3:00 p.m.
- (H) The Father shall have the child(ren) on Father's Day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Mother shall have the child(ren) on Mother's Day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- (I) Labor Day from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (J) Memorial Day from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (K) Halloween in even numbered years from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

VISITATION FROM 2 YEARS TO 3 YEARS

The non-residential parent shall have visitation as follows:

- (A) Every other weekend from Friday at 5:00 p.m. to Sunday at 5:00 p.m.
- (B) Every Tuesday from 4:00 p.m. to Wednesday at 8:00 a.m.
- (C) On the birthdays of the child or either parent from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- (D) Easter Day from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (E) 4th of July from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (F) Thanksgiving Day at 3:00 p.m. through the day after Thanksgiving at 3:00 p.m.
- (G) Christmas Day at 3:00 p.m. to December 26 at 3:00 p.m.
- (H) The child(ren) shall spend Father's Day with the Father from

Saturday prior to Father's Day at 6:00 p.m. through Father's Day at 6:00 p.m. The child(ren) shall spend Mother's Day with the Mother from Saturday prior to Mother's Day at 6:00 p.m. through Mother's Day at 6:00 p.m.

(I) Labor Day from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

(J) Memorial Day from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

(K) Halloween in even numbered years from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

VISITATION FOR CHILDREN 3 YEARS OLD AND OLDER

A. **WEEKENDS.** Every other weekend from Friday at 3:00 p.m., when the non-residential parent shall pick up the minor child(ren) from school or daycare, until Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. when the non-residential parent shall return the child(ren) to school or daycare. If school is not in session, the child(ren) shall be picked up at daycare or the home of the child(ren) at 3:00 p.m. and the child(ren) would be returned to the residential parent at 8:00 a.m. The first weekend visitation shall begin the second full weekend after the date of the Decree.

B. **WEEKDAY VISITATION.** Every other Tuesday from 3:00 p.m., when the non-residential parent shall pick up the minor child(ren) from school or daycare, through Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. when the non-residential parent shall return the minor child(ren) to daycare or school. If school is not in session, the child(ren) shall be picked up at daycare or the home of the child(ren) at 3:00 p.m. and the child(ren) would be returned to the residential parent at 8:00 a.m.

C. **SUMMER VISITATION.** During the months of June and July each year, the parties shall rotate every other week (7 consecutive days) from Friday at 5:00 p.m. to the following Friday at 5:00 p.m. The first week of visitation shall begin the first Friday in June with the non-residential parent having the first week (7 days) and the parties shall continue to rotate each Friday until the Friday one (1) week prior to

school resumes, at which time the regular weekend schedule shall resume, beginning the first Friday of August each year.

D. **SPRING BREAK.** Monday through Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. if the non-residential parent has regularly scheduled weekend visitation prior to Spring Break; otherwise visitation shall begin Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. through Friday if regularly scheduled weekend visitation begins on the weekend following Spring Break.

E. **FALL BREAK.** The parties shall each have the exact same number of days school is out for Fall Break. For example, if Fall Break is two (2) days, each parent gets one (1) day, if Fall Break is three (3) days, each parent gets 1.5 days, etc. Depending on the number of days in the Fall break, the non-residential parent shall have the first half of the Fall Break and the residential parent shall have the last half of the Fall Break.

F. **CHILD'S BIRTHDAY.** The parties shall each have visitation with the minor child(ren) on his/her birthday. If the non-residential parent has visitation on the child(ren) birthday, then the residential parent is entitled to have the child(ren) on his/her birthday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the child's birthday. If there is more than one (1) child, the parent shall be entitled to visit with all the children for each child's birthday visit.

G. **BIRTHDAY OF EITHER PARENT.** Each parent shall have the child(ren) for visitation on his or her birthday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

H. **SPECIFIC HOLIDAY VISITATION FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL PARENT.**

(1) In odd numbered years:

- a. Easter Sunday from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- b. Labor Day from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

c. Thanksgiving weekend, from the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day at 6:00 p.m. until Friday at 6:00 p.m. If this is the non-residential parent's regularly scheduled weekend visitation, then the visitation will end on Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

(2) In even numbered years:

- a. Memorial Day from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- b. July 4th from 8:00 a.m. until July 5th at 8:00 a.m.

The residential parent shall be entitled to holiday periods with the child(ren) as follows:

(1) In odd numbered years:

- a. Memorial Day from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- b. July 4th from 8:00 a.m. until July 5th at 8:00 a.m.

(2) In even numbered years:

- a. Easter Sunday from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- b. Labor Day from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- c. Thanksgiving weekend, from the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day at 6:00 p.m. until Friday at 6:00 p.m.

Specific holiday visitation takes precedence over any weekend visitation set out in these guidelines.

I. CHRISTMAS VACATION FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL PARENT.

(1) In even numbered years from the date school is recessed for the Christmas holidays at 3:00 p.m. until December 25 at 3:00 p.m.

(2) In odd numbered years from December 25 at 3:00 p.m. until January 2 at 6:00 p.m.

The residential parent shall have the child(ren) during Christmas vacation as follows:

(1) In odd numbered years from the date school is recessed for the Christmas holidays at 3:00 p.m. until December 25 at 3:00 p.m.

(2) In even numbered years from December 25 at 3:00 p.m. until January 2 at 6:00 p.m.

J. **FATHER'S DAY/MOTHER'S DAY.** The child(ren) shall be with his/her/their father for Father's Day each year from Saturday prior to Father's Day at 6:00 p.m. through Father's Day at 6:00 p.m. The child(ren) shall be with his/her/their mother for Mother's Day each year from Saturday prior to Mother's Day through Mother's Day at 6:00 p.m.

K. **OTHER REASONABLE TIMES AND PLACES.** At all other times and places as may be agreed upon between the parties.

L. **NOTICE.** No advance notice shall be required of the non-residential parent concerning visitation. However, the non-residential parent shall notify the residential parent, as soon as practicable, if the non-residential parent is unable to visit with the child(ren) during the scheduled time and place.

M. **TELEPHONE ACCESS.** Each parent shall have reasonable telephone access to the minor child(ren) while in the physical custody of the other parent, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

N. **SPECIAL EVENTS.** Children are entitled to have both parents present at special events, such as graduation, special school events, sporting and extra-curricular events, and any other special occasions which would be of significance to the child(ren). The residential parent shall notify the non-residential parent of such events in advance. Both parents are directed to cooperate with each other so that these events will remain special events in the lives of their child(ren).

O. **EVENTS SCHEDULED DURING VISITATION.** The residential parent shall inform the non-residential parent of any regularly scheduled sporting events, practices, school activities, or other functions which the child(ren) would normally attend during any scheduled visitation period. The non-residential parent shall make reasonable efforts to allow the child(ren) to attend such functions during any period of visitation.

P. **ILLNESS.** Both parents are directed to immediately notify the other parent in the event any regularly scheduled visitation cannot occur as scheduled. Normal childhood illnesses will normally not be deemed a sufficient reason for canceling a scheduled visitation; however, the residential parent shall convey full instructions to the non-residential parent concerning medication, treatment, and physicians' orders. If the child(ren) is treated during a visitation with the non-residential parent, then the residential parent shall be fully informed of the treatment, medication and doctor's advice concerning the child(ren).

Q. **TRANSPORTATION.** The non-residential parent is responsible for picking the child(ren) up at the residence of the residential parent and returning the child(ren) to the same residence as long as the most direct route from the non-residential parent's residence to the child(ren)'s residence is 20 miles or less. If the distance is greater than 20 miles, then the non-residential parent shall be responsible for getting the child(ren) at their residence at the beginning of the visit and the non-residential parent shall be responsible for getting the child(ren) at the residence of the non-residential parent at the end of the visitation period. (For distances more than 100 miles see long distance visitation guidelines).

R. **TRANSITION/CONDUCT.** Each parent shall encourage a smooth and orderly transition of the child(ren) at the beginning and conclusion of each scheduled visitation period, and shall in no way attempt to influence, alienate or otherwise sway the child(ren) against the other parent.

S. **REMARKS.** Each parent shall refrain from making derogatory or insulting remarks or comments regarding the other in the presence of the child(ren).

T. **OTHER.** The parents shall not involve the child(ren) in any disputes about child support and visitation. Whoever has the child(ren) is responsible for ensuring homework, assignments, projects, etc. are completed. The residential parent shall communicate any special instructions to the non-residential parent, regarding school assignments if the child(ren) are visiting with the non-residential parent on school nights.