

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR  
SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION**

**ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE SRCAD 2007-02**

**IN RE: SHARED PARENTING SCHEDULE AND  
SHARED PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT**

WHEREAS, the judges assigned to the Family Law Division have determined that a shared parenting schedule be adopted to consolidate and revise the shared parenting schedules (visitation schedules) previously disseminated; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that a standard statement of parental rights and responsibilities be included in negotiated agreements and orders pertaining to children affected by domestic litigation; and

WHEREAS, the judges assigned to the Family Law Division have reviewed and approved the newly revised Shared Parenting Schedule and Shared Parental Responsibility Statement, with input from the Family Law Committee of the Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association, it is, therefore,

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:**

1. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** The Shared Parenting Schedule and Shared Parental Responsibility Statement, as revised, shall be prospective and effective January 30, 2007, for all matters which have adopted a shared parenting schedule, including any prior Shared Parenting Schedule (visitation schedule) pertaining to children affected by domestic litigation.

Although the application of this schedule is not retroactive, parents may agree to its application in their case and submit a stipulated order for the court's approval. If the secondary parent would like for this schedule to apply and the primary parent opposes its application, the secondary parent may file a petition requesting the court to adopt this schedule in their case. The parties may be required to mediate prior to the scheduling of a court hearing. A rebuttal presumption is hereby created that presumes this schedule is in the best interest of the minor child(ren).

2. **SHARED PARENTING SCHEDULE:** The attached Shared Parenting Schedule approved by the judges assigned to the Family Law Division, supersedes all other Shared Parenting Schedules (standard visitation schedules) which have previously been used in family cases in Santa Rosa County and any updates or revisions thereto, and shall be known as the "Shared Parenting Schedule."

3. **SHARED PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT**: The attached Shared Parental Responsibility Statement may be included in negotiated agreements and Orders regarding children affected by domestic litigation.

DONE AND ORDERED in Milton, Santa Rosa County, Florida, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2007.

Signed by: R. V. Swanson, Administrative Judge

**SANTA ROSA COUNTY**  
**SHARED PARENTING SCHEDULE**

The parties have been ordered or have agreed to share parental responsibility for their minor child(ren) in which one parent has been designated as the primary residential parent and the other has been designated as the secondary residential parent. Unless other terms or provisions are specified in the Court's judgment or orders in this proceeding or, if approved by the Court, in the agreement of the parties, **shared parenting** means that:

1. **General:** The residential parent shall be referred to herein as the "primary residential parent" (PRP) and the other non-residential parent shall be referred to as the "secondary residential parent" (SRP). This schedule is not intended to apply as a matter of course to situations where parents rotate or share approximately equal time with their child(ren). Rotating parenting arrangements may include, but are not limited to, alternating Thursdays from the time the child is released from school or day care, until Tuesday morning, at which time the child shall be returned to school, day care, or the other parent, as the case may be; alternating weeks from Sunday at 6:00 p.m.; or six/nine-week periods of rotation which are commensurate with (equal to) the child's school schedule. In a case of rotating parenting agreements, parents are free to incorporate portions of this schedule into their customized time sharing. This Shared Parenting Schedule shall apply when the parties live within a reasonable commuting distance of each other (reasonable commuting distance is presumed to be no greater than fifty (50) miles one way), and unless the parties otherwise agree in writing and obtain a different, court approved, parenting schedule.
2. **Weekends:** The SRP shall be entitled to alternate weekend parenting time commencing on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) Friday following a hearing addressing parenting time, mediation, or such other times as the parties may agree in writing. Said parenting time shall start Friday from the time school recesses, or one(1) hour after school if the child(ren) needs to retrieve personal items from home (the one (1) hour does not apply if the secondary parent supplies all necessary clothing, accessories, etc.) or it starts otherwise at 6:00 p.m. if due to work related reasons the SRP is unable to start parenting time after school recesses. Parenting time continues through Monday morning. If school is in session, the child shall be taken to school by the SRP. If school is not in session, the child shall be returned to the PRP's residence, or day care (if applicable), by 9:00 a.m. Once the child(ren) is/are picked up, it is the Secondary Residential Parent's responsibility to house and care for the child(ren) during this time period unless the PRP agrees that the child(ren) should be returned early.
3. **Weekday Parenting Time:** The SRP shall have parenting time each Wednesday from the time school recesses, or it starts otherwise at or before 6:00 p.m. if the SRP is unable to start parenting time after school recesses. Parenting time shall end at 8:00 p.m. Weekday parenting time shall commence on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) Wednesday following a hearing addressing parenting time, mediation, or such times as the parties may otherwise agree in writing.

If the child(ren) is/are not enrolled in school due to age or home schooling, parenting time shall begin at the time school normally recesses for the day at the public school in the PRP's district, or it starts otherwise at or before 6:00 p.m. if the SRP is unable to start parenting time after school recesses. Parenting time ends at 8:00 p.m.

4. **Holidays and Other Parenting Times:** In odd-numbered years, the SRP shall have Memorial Day, the Thanksgiving holiday, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Halloween and the PRP shall have July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, President's Day and Veterans Day. In even-numbered years, this schedule is reversed. It is recognized that holiday parenting time is an interruption of, and supersedes regular weekday, weekend, and any uninterrupted summer parenting time. If the child(ren) is/are not enrolled in school due to age or home schooling, holidays and other parenting time shall be governed by the schedule of the public school in PRP's district. At the conclusion of any holiday parenting time, the previously established parenting schedule shall resume as if there was no interruption unless otherwise agreed to by both parties in accordance with Paragraph 22.

A. **Thanksgiving Holiday:** Thanksgiving holiday begins from the time school recesses, or one (1) hour after school recesses (the one(1) hour does not apply if the SRP supplies all clothing, accessories, etc.) or it starts otherwise at 6:00 p.m. or before, if the SRP is unable to start parenting time after school recesses. Parenting time ends the following Monday morning when school reconvenes. The SRP shall take the child(ren) to school on the scheduled morning that school reconvenes, return the child(ren) to the PRP, or day care provider, no later 9:00 a.m.

B. **Christmas Vacation:** The Christmas holiday period shall be divided by the total number of days for the Christmas holidays. Christmas parenting time shall start at the time school recesses, or one (1) hour after school recesses (the one (1) hour does not apply if the SRP supplies all clothing, accessories, etc.) or it starts otherwise at or before 6:00 p.m., if the SRP is unable to start parenting time after school recesses. Christmas parenting time ends when school reconvenes. In even-numbered years, the SRP shall have the child(ren) the first half of this Christmas holiday period. The child(ren) transition(s) to the other parent for the second half of the Christmas vacation at 12:00 p.m. on the day between the two halves of Christmas vacation (if the calculated number of days of Christmas vacation is odd) or on the first day of the second parent's time (if the calculated number of days of Christmas vacation is even).

Splitting the holiday period equally can result in one parent having both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Parents are encouraged to work together so that the parent without one of these two days spends at least some time with the child(ren) on one or both of these days.

- C. **Easter**: Easter often falls within spring break vacation. In the event it does not, then the SRP shall have the child on Easter from 8:00 a.m. through 9:00 a.m. Monday morning during odd numbered years, and the PRP during even-numbered years. If Easter falls within the spring break vacation period, then parenting time shall be pursuant to Paragraph 4(D).
- D. **Spring Break**: The SRP shall have the parenting time with the child(ren) for spring break during even-numbered years and the PRP during odd-numbered years. Spring break parenting time shall commence from the time school recesses, or one(1) hour after school recesses (the one (1) hour does not apply if the SRP supplies all clothing, accessories, etc.) or it starts after school recesses. This vacation period shall end the morning school reconvenes. The SRP shall take the child to school on the scheduled morning that school reconvenes, return the child(ren) to the PRP, or day care provider, no later than 9:00 a.m.
- E. **Fall Break**: In the event the child's school elects to have a fall break, the SRP shall have the parenting time with the child(ren) during odd-numbered years and the PRP during even-numbered years. Fall break parenting time shall commence from the time school recesses, or one (1) hour after school recesses (the one (1) hour does not apply if the SRP supplies all clothing, accessories, etc.) or it starts after school recesses. This vacation period shall end the morning school reconvenes. The SRP shall take the child to school on the scheduled morning that school reconvenes, return the child(ren) to the PRP, or day care provider, no later than 9:00 a.m.
- F. **Birthdays**: In odd-numbered years, the child shall celebrate his or her birthday at the home of the SRP. In even-numbered years, the child shall celebrate his or her birthday at the home of the PRP. If the child attends school, parenting time shall commence from the time school recesses, or one (1) hour after school recesses (the one (1) hour does not apply if the SRP supplies all clothing, accessories, etc.) or it starts after school or it starts otherwise at or before 6:00 p.m. if due to work reasons the SRP is unable to start parenting time after school recesses, and shall conclude the following morning when the child is either returned to school or by 9:00 a.m. to the other parent's residence, or day care (if applicable).
- G. **Father's Day and Mother's Day**: The day shall be spent each year with the appropriate parent.
- H. **Summers**: The SRP shall have parenting time the first (1<sup>st</sup>) one-half of summer break visitation during odd-numbered years, and the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) one-half during even-numbered years. The PRP shall have the same weekday and weekend visitation, as well as communication rights, during the summer as the SRP has during the year, except that each parent has a right to have the

child for uninterrupted parenting time for two (2) weeks. The parents may agree in writing to a longer or shorter period of uninterrupted parenting time. The uninterrupted parenting time shall occur during that parent's part of summer parenting time unless otherwise agreed in writing. Each party should attempt, when possible, to give the other party as much advance written notice of when they will be exercising uninterrupted parenting time during the summer. Any period of uninterrupted parenting time shall not conflict with any holiday or birthday parenting time unless the parties otherwise agree in writing. Uninterrupted parenting time shall not be construed to supersede a parent's communication rights under Paragraph 14.

The summer break parenting time shall commence from the time school recesses, or one (1) hour after school recesses (the one (1) hour does not apply if the SRP supplies all clothing, accessories, etc.) or it starts otherwise at or before 6:00 p.m. if the SRP is unable to start parenting time after school recesses. Summer break concludes at 6:00 p.m. on the seventh (7th) day prior to school reconvening for the next school year. The child(ren) transition(s) to the other parent for the second half of the summer at 12:00 p.m. on the day between the two halves of summer (if the calculated number of days of summer vacation is odd) or on the first day of the second parent's time (if the calculated number of days of summer vacation is even).

If a child is required to attend summer school, the time sharing shall proceed as during the normal school year for the time summer school is in session. Any remaining portion of the summer break as defined above, shall be equally split between the parents.

- I. **School Planning Days**: Parents are to divide all school planning days equally. In that regard, the PRP should notify the SRP at the beginning of each school year as to when all school planning days are scheduled, so that SRP can make efforts to spend this additional time with their child on a rotating basis. If the parties cannot agree, the PRP shall have the first school planning day, and the parties will rotate every other school planning day thereafter.
- J. **Hours of Shared Parenting**: Hours of shared parenting for Memorial Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, President's Day, Veterans Day, Halloween, Mother's Day, Father's Day and school planning days shall be from 9:00 a.m. until school begins the following morning (if in session), or otherwise at 9:00 a.m. the following morning when the child is returned to the PRP, or day care, if applicable. For Halloween, if school is in session, shared parenting time shall commence from the time school recesses or as soon as the parent entitled to Halloween can pick up the child.
- K. **Exception from Back-up Care**: The parent who is assigned spring break, summer vacation, fall break or Christmas vacation time under this schedule

may choose for the child(ren) to spend such time with a relative, by blood or marriage within the second degree (e.g., grandparent, aunt, uncle or step-parent), even if such parent is not present. In this situation, the other parent does not have the back-up care rights listed in Paragraph 6.

A parent, during his or her summer vacation time, may choose to enroll the child(ren) in a special activity, day camp or overnight camp including, but not limited to, Boy/Girl Scouts, sports camp, or music camp. The purpose of the activity must be to foster an interest of the child(ren). In this situation, the other parent does not have the back-up care right listed in Paragraph 6. Standard day care used to keep the child(ren) while the parent is away does not meet this required purpose.

5. **Cancellation by Secondary-Residential Parent:** Forty-eight (48) hours notice shall be given by the SRP to the PRP if parenting time **will not be exercised** for any scheduled parenting time. Any shared parenting time canceled without forty-eight (48) hours notice by the SRP shall be forfeited unless the non-parenting time is caused by illness, extended work hours, or a physical impossibility to pick up the child(ren). In that event, and if make-up parenting time is requested, it shall be in accordance with Paragraph 15.
6. **Back-up Care:**
  - A. **Short Term:** When the child(ren) are with either parent and that parent has to be absent, because of work, social obligations, etc., and is not able to care for the child(ren) for a period of less than six (6) hours, that parent does not have to give the other parent first right of refusal to keep the child(ren) as long as a relative, by blood or marriage, within the second degree (e.g., grandparent, aunt, uncle or step-parent) provides care for the child(ren). If a relative, as defined above, does not provide that care, then that parent shall contact the other parent and allow him or her the opportunity to care for the child(ren). The parent that is providing back-up care shall provide all transportation associated with exercising this visitation.
  - B. **Long Term:** When the child(ren) is/are with either parent and that parent has to be absent for a period of time in excess of six (6) hours, the parent that is not able to care for the child(ren) shall contact the other parent and allow him or her the opportunity to care for the child(ren). If that parent is not able to care for the child(ren), then a third party may care for the child(ren). The parent that is providing back-up care shall provide all transportation associated with exercising this visitation.
  - C. **Exception to Short and Long Term Back-up Care:** If the child(ren) is/are enrolled in and attending day care or after school care and the policy of the day care/after school care provider requires the attendance of the child(ren) or the

child(ren) will lose his/her/their slot; compliance with the above provisions(s) is/are not mandatory.

7. **Trip Itinerary**: Each parent has the right to know the whereabouts of the child(ren) when parenting time will be exercised in a different locale other than the home. Should either parent have the child(ren) away from their normal residence for a period of more than 24 hours (e.g., for a trip or vacation) then prior to exercising that parenting time such parent shall provide the other with an itinerary of where the child(ren) will be staying, providing addresses, telephone numbers of each location, the length of the stay, the name of all persons who may provide care for the child(ren) during the stay, the departure date, and the date of return/arrival. In case of an emergency involving the child(ren) and in the best interest of the child(ren), each parent is encouraged to communicate with the other (unless prohibited by court order) when he or she will be traveling away from home for less than 24 hours. The parties should provide the other parent with telephone number(s), pager, voice mail, or contact information for a third party so that the parent may contact the other parent if there is an emergency involving the child(ren).
  
8. **Scheduled Events**: In the event the child has an extracurricular activity or social event, e.g., softball game, ballet, Scout meeting, then both parents are required to assure the child's attendance, provided the parents have agreed in writing that the child will participate in these activities, and the child is not otherwise ill or unable to attend due to extraordinary circumstances.

Both parents have the right to be informed as to the schedule of such activities in which the child(ren) are involved and both shall be entitled to attend such activities (unless otherwise prohibited by court order). Both parents shall make good faith efforts to get the child(ren) to such activities on time and in appropriate attire. If not attending such activity, the parent who drops the child off for such activity has the duty to ensure that the child(ren) is/are picked up from such activity.

9. **Records**: Each parent has the right to complete access to all of the child(ren)'s school, medical and dental records. The SRP has a responsibility to recognize that the transfer of information regarding the child(ren)'s life is a mutual obligation. Should the SRP have concerns regarding the academic, social, or emotional development of the child(ren), the SRP has an obligation to contact the appropriate school, doctor, or other individual regarding same. The SRP, as a concerned and loving parent, cannot rely totally upon the PRP to supply all of the information which the SRP deems necessary regarding the care and development of the children. Neither parent shall in any way obstruct or hinder the other parent's right and ability to seek and obtain information pertaining to the child(ren) (unless otherwise permitted by court order).

**Medical Condition**: Each parent has the right to know of any significant illness of a child or significant injury sustained by such child(ren). "Significant" is hereby defined as any such condition which would require a child to miss school or to be

taken to a health care provider. Each party shall notify the other promptly of any significant illness or injury affecting the minor child(ren).

10. **Religious Days/Holidays:** The Court recognizes that this schedule (and the typical school schedule) revolves around certain religious days/holidays. If one or both parties are of a different faith or nationality, then those religious days/holidays shall be shared equally or as agreed to in a written document that is signed by both parties.
11. **Transportation:** Unless otherwise provided by court order, the child(ren) shall be transported to and from parenting time by the SRP, that parent's spouse, the grandparents, or a third party agreed to by both parents. However, the PRP shall be responsible for transportation during the summer when it is the SRP's scheduled summer parenting time. The PRP may delegate transportation to his or her spouse, grandparents, or a third party agreed to by both parents.

When airline transportation is used and the child(ren) is/are below the age to fly unaccompanied, the parent having the child transported by air for parenting time must make arrangements with the airline(s) to have the child accompanied by airline personnel, the additional cost of which shall be divided equally between the parents, unless otherwise provided by court order or agreement between the parties.

12. **Waiting:** The child(ren) and the PRP shall have no duty to await the arrival of the SRP for more than thirty (30) minutes. If the child(ren) is/are not picked up by the SRP within that time, parenting time shall be forfeited for that parenting period, unless the SRP's lateness is excused by illness, extended work hours, or a physical impossibility to arrive on time, or a telephone call explaining the reason for the delay before the thirty (30) minutes have elapsed.
13. **Cancellation by PRP:** In the event a child is ill and unable to safely leave the home, the PRP shall give the SRP twenty-four (24) hours notice, if possible, in order that appropriate alternate plans can be made in accordance with Paragraph 15. If medication has been prescribed for a child, then that medicine shall accompany the child, and shall be given as prescribed. The doctor's name and phone number shall be shared. In the event an accident or illness occurs while in the car of either parent, that parent shall notify the other parent as soon as practical.
14. **Communications:** Each parent shall have the right to contact the child(ren) by telephone at the residence, or location of the other parent with reasonable frequency, during reasonable hours, and for reasonable duration (unless otherwise prohibited by court order). Unless an emergency arises, "reasonable frequency" is defined as once per day. "Reasonable hours" is defined as 8:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. (child(ren)'s local time). "Reasonable duration" is hereby defined as no more than one-half (½) hour per call. Each parent has a duty to promptly return telephone calls placed by the other and to see that the child(ren) do the same. The child(ren) shall be allowed to initiate telephone calls during any period of parenting time. If the telephone call

requires a long distance charge, the parent initiating the call is responsible for any long distance charge.

The child(ren) should be afforded reasonable privacy during conversations with the parent. Neither parent shall record or monitor telephone calls between the child(ren) and the other parent (unless permitted to so by court order).

15. **Make-up Parenting Time:** If weekend parenting time is missed, it shall be made up on an “alternate weekend” (presumably the weekend immediately following the missed parenting time period). The regular parenting time shall then recommence the following weekend. Summer, spring break, fall break, and Christmas make-up days shall be added to the parenting time schedule the following summer, spring break, fall break, or Christmas. Make-up parenting for weekday parenting shall be made up the next day, or forfeited, unless the parties otherwise agree.
16. **Adequate Clean Clothing for the Parenting Time:** Clean and appropriate (correct size, seasonally correct, etc.) clothing shall be supplied by the PRP, and all clothes shall be returned by the SRP to the PRP in the same condition. If agreed to by the parties, the SRP may provide clothing, thus dispensing with the need for the PRP to provide clothing.
17. **Pre-school Aged Children (before age 6):** Pre-school children who are not enrolled in a pre-school program may have more flexibility as it relates to summer vacation, Christmas holiday, Thanksgiving holiday, spring break, and fall break. As such, rather than equally dividing the summer, parents **may** wish to spread this time over the months of the year. Parents are permitted to change the above schedule for pre-schoolers in accordance with Paragraph 22. In the event the parents **cannot agree** to these changes to the benefit of their child, then the parents shall follow the Shared Parenting Schedule.
18. **Relocation of PRP:** When a PRP or a parent in a rotating time sharing arrangement intends to relocate more than fifty (50) miles away from his or her principal residence at the time the last court order addressing residential issues was entered, that parent must follow the provision of Florida Statute 61.13001. This statute requires, among other things, the sending of a detailed notice (with the specific information listed in the statute) to the other parent and allows time for the other parent to raise to the Court his or her objection to relocation. The statute also has provisions for an agreement by the parties and approval by the Court. This statute does not apply if the intended move will place the new residence less than fifty (50) miles from the other parent.
19. **Attorney’s Fees and Court Costs:** In the event a contempt hearing is held and one parent has been found in contempt for violation of this Shared Parenting Schedule, then the parent found in contempt **may** be subject to appropriate sanctions, which may include (but are not limited to) payment of the other party’s attorney’s fees and costs.

20. **Child Support**: Non-payment or late payment of child support is **not** a legal or acceptable reason to deviate from or refuse to follow this schedule. Conversely, denial of parenting time will **not** legally justify non-payment or late payment of child support. **Denial** of parenting time **may** subject the denying parent to **sanctions** (punishment) by the Court.
21. **Grandparents**: Grandparents usually have a desire to maintain a relationship and contact with their grandchildren. Likewise, grandchildren benefit from maintaining a strong and loving relationship with the grandparents. The parents are strongly encouraged to share parenting time with the paternal and maternal grandparents.
22. **Flexibility**: Each parent is encouraged to mutually agree to change his/her schedule to suit the needs of the child(ren) first and themselves second. The parents may, by mutual agreement, change the terms of this Shared Parenting Schedule on a per activity basis; for example, switching weekends due to a relative's wedding. If the parents wish to make permanent changes, which are enforceable by the Court, this should be accomplished by Paragraph 23.
23. **Adjustment of Agreement**: The parties are permitted to mutually adjust this Shared Parenting Schedule. It is strongly recommended that the parties reduce any adjustments to this schedule to writing, signed by both parties and notarized. The parties may also reach an unwritten agreement, but if the Court, in its discretion, chooses to recognize their adjusted agreement (written or oral), it may choose to only adopt and incorporate into a court order an agreement that has been reduced to writing, signed by both parties and notarized. Additionally, the Court does not have the authority to enforce, by contempt or otherwise, an agreement of the parties until after the agreement has been approved by the Court and incorporated into a court order.

**SANTA ROSA COUNTY**  
**SHARED PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT**

1. Each parent has been given shared parental responsibility. This means:
  - A. Both parents shall communicate so that major decisions that affect the child(ren) shall be made in consultation with each other. Said decisions include, but are not limited to, education, discipline, religion, medical, and the general parenting of the child(ren).
  - B. Each parent shall diligently remember to encourage and promote, between the other parent and child(ren), good relations, love and affection, spending time with and giving attention to the other parent when that parent has the child(ren). Neither parent shall obstruct, impede or interfere with the other parent's right to associate with and enjoy the company of the minor child(ren), unless there is a court order that prohibits such contact by the other parent.
  - C. Each parent shall have access to records and information about the minor child(ren) including, but not limited to, medical, dental and school records. Each parent, where possible, shall independently obtain this information. When this information is not readily available to the other parent, each parent is encouraged to obtain and share this information with the other parent. If there is a cost of obtaining information for the other parent, that parent must pay the cost to the other parent before that parent has a duty to obtain the information.
  - D. Unless otherwise provided by a court order, the parent enrolling the child(ren) in school shall list both parents on the student registration card(s) or other document(s) required by the school to allow either parent to pick the child(ren) up from school or check the child(ren) out of school. Absent an emergency or the consent of the other parent, a parent should pick up or check out the child(ren) only on days assigned to that parent under the parties' time sharing schedule.
  - E. Neither parent shall in the presence of or around the child(ren) make any disparaging remarks about the other parent or call the other parent by an obnoxious or offensive name, use slang or curse words when referring to the other parent, or ask the child(ren) about the other parent's private life. Any feelings of ill will, dislike, hatred, lack of respect, or anger held by one parent against the other or held by both parents, shall not be exhibited in the presence of or around the child(ren). The relationship between the parents shall be as respectful and courteous as possible, when dealing with matters relating to the child(ren).
  - F. Each parent has a duty to communicate directly with the child(ren) concerning his or her relationship with the child(ren) to the extent warranted by the children's age and maturity. Neither parent can expect the other parent to act as a "go between" or "buffer" between the other parent and the child(ren). For example, if parenting time is missed or changed by a parent and the child(ren) asks why, that parent should discuss this with the child(ren).

- G. Both parents shall be entitled to participate in and attend activities in which the child(ren) is/are involved, such as religious activities, school programs, lunch with the child(ren) at school, sports events and other activities and important school and social events in which the child(ren) participate(s). A school's policy may supersede a parent's right to attend certain activities. Each parent has the duty to independently obtain knowledge of any information about these events. If information is exclusively or uniquely known to one parent, then that parent has the duty to timely inform the other parent, within a reasonable period of time before the event.
- H. The child(ren)'s legal surname (last name) shall not be changed except by court order. The child(ren) shall be referred to by the child(ren)'s legal surname in all proceedings (including, but not limited to, school, medical, religious, day care records, etc.) and occasions (including, but not limited to, social events, religious events, school activities, family gatherings, at home, work or play). While legal step-parents often participate significantly in the life of the child(ren) and bonds of love and affection are formed, enjoyed and encouraged, each parent must remember that the step-parent is **NOT** to overshadow or displace the role of the other parent in the child(ren)'s life. While it is acceptable for the child(ren) to use a respectful name commonly associated with the role of a parent when talking to or about the step-parent, that name shall not replace the name of "Mother" or "Father" (or common derivatives, e.g., Mom, Dad) used by the child(ren) to refer to the child(ren)'s parents.
- I. Each party has a right to confer with the other pertaining to all major decisions affecting the welfare of their child(ren) (unless otherwise prohibited by court order, entered after the court order incorporating this schedule; for example: Domestic Violence Restraining Order). Both parents shall confer so that the advantages and disadvantages of all major decisions affecting the welfare of the child(ren) will be determined jointly. Such major decisions may include, but are not limited to, the education, medical and dental care, religious training, and discipline of the minor child(ren). For example, this duty would include an obligation to discuss a decision to remove a child from a public school in order to enroll a child in private school, it may include allowing a child to participate in a school related activity, e.g., field trip. It would not include a decision to have a child's hair trimmed. In the event the parties are unable to agree on a decision affecting the welfare of the minor, the primary residential parent (PRP) has the right to make the decision and the secondary residential parent (SRP) may file a petition within a reasonable time to review the decision.

**This Shared Parental Responsibility Statement is a general order of court. Some cases contain court orders that are unique and specific to that case. If in your case there is a court order that directly or indirectly conflicts with any provision of this statement, you MUST obey that court order unless or until the Court expressly instructs you to do otherwise.**