

Parenting Time Factors

All families are different, so parenting plans should be customized for each family. There are several factors the court may consider when determining the frequency, duration and type of parenting time. [MCL722.27a\(7\)](#) These factors are:

- (a) The existence of any special circumstances or needs of the child.
- (b) Whether the child is a nursing child less than 6 months of age, or less than 1 year of age if the child receives substantial nutrition through nursing.
- (c) The reasonable likelihood of abuse or neglect of the child during parenting time.
- (d) The reasonable likelihood of abuse of a parent resulting from the exercise of parenting time.
- (e) The inconvenience to, and burdensome impact or effect on, the child traveling for purposes of parenting time.
- (f) Whether a parent can reasonably be expected to exercise parenting time in accordance with the court order.
- (g) Whether a parent has frequently failed to exercise reasonable parenting time.
- (h) The threatened or actual detention of the child with the intent to retain or conceal the child from the other parent or from a third person who has legal custody. A custodial parent's temporary residence with the child in a domestic violence shelter shall not be construed as evidence a custodial parent's intent to retain or conceal the child from the other parent.

In addition, there are some other considerations that can be looked at, such as:

- Division of the responsibility to transport the child.
- Division of the cost of transporting the child.
- Restrictions on the presence of third persons during parenting time.
- Requirements that the child be ready for parenting time at a specific time.
- Requirements that the parent arrive for parenting time and return the child from parenting time at specific times.
- Requirements that parenting time occur in the presence of a third person or agency.
- Requirements that a party post a bond to assure compliance with a parenting time order.
- Requirements of reasonable notice when parenting time will not occur.
- Any other reasonable condition determined to be appropriate in the particular case.

[MCL722.27\(a\)\(7\)](#)

Other Considerations:

- The flexibility of the parents' schedules
- The developmental stage of the child/ren
- Special needs or restrictions of a parent
- Ability of the parents to communicate and cooperate
- Conflict level between the parents
- Distance between the homes of the parents
- The maturity level of the child/ren
- Child/ren's commitment to community such as work, school events, or participation in other activities
- The child/ren's cultural and religious practices
- The nature of the parent/child relationship at the present time
- Parental fitness concerns, such as domestic violence, substance abuse or mental health issues
- The parent's ability to care for the child/ren and meet the needs of the child/ren
- The parent's availability to meet the needs of the child/ren