

WWLDRR 99.04W I - Alternate Residential Time Guidelines Formerly Local Rule 18
Walla Walla Local Domestic Relations Rule

I. Alternate Residential Time Guidelines [formerly Local Rule 18]

1. *Alternate Residential Time.* In order to facilitate reasonable resolution of visitation issues, the parties should consider the following guidelines which the court would be inclined to accept as reasonable in most cases, based on the child's age and the geographical location of the parents:

0 to 6 months: Two hours, twice per week.

6 months to 1 year: Two hours, twice per week; and four hours, once per week.

1 year to 3 years: Two hours, twice per week; and eight hours, once per week. These holidays alternate each year, for 8 hours each: Easter, July 4th, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Overnight residential time is not usually recommended.

3 years to 5 years: Two hours, twice per week. Alternating weekends from Saturday at 9:00 AM until Sunday at 6:00 PM. These holidays alternate each year: Easter, July 4th, Thanksgiving for 2 days; Christmas Eve and 2 days before and Christmas Day and 2 days thereafter. Summer residential time: Two non-consecutive one-week periods.

5 years and older: Every other weekend from Friday at 6:00 PM until Sunday at 6:00 PM. If Friday is a school holiday, the weekend begins Thursday at 6:00 PM. If Monday is a school holiday, the weekend ends Monday at 6:00 PM. One weekday from 5:30 PM until 7:30 PM, once per week. These holidays alternate each year: Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving (from 6:00 PM the Wednesday before Thanksgiving day to 6:00 PM (the Sunday immediately following the holiday) and Winter Holidays (on even years from 6:00 PM on the day school recesses to December 24th at 8:00 PM, and on odd years, from 8:00 PM on December 24th to 6:00 PM the day before school commences).

Summer and Spring Vacation residential time: Five weeks during the summer, commencing one week after school is out in even-numbered years and commencing 6 weeks before the start of school in odd-numbered years (during which times the residential parent shall have residential time with the child on an alternating weekend basis as set forth above, except during extended trips/vacations). Spring break shall be alternated each year, commencing at 6:00 PM on the day before the vacation begins and ending at 6:00 PM on the day before school starts.

2. *Father's/Mother's Day.* Regardless of the residential time suggested above, the mother shall have residential time of at least 4 hours on Mother's Day; and the father shall have residential time of at least 4 hours on Father's Day.

3. *Birthdays*. Each parent shall be allowed to spend at least 4 hours with the child to celebrate the child's birthday, and that parent's birthday, within 2 days of that birthday.

4. *Telephone Contact*. Reasonable telephonic and other contact by electronic means including text messaging, emailing, Skype or Facetime, Facebook and/or other means of social networking is usually appropriate, and should not be less than once per week for each parent during that parent's non-residential time.

5. *Different Age Groups*. When children of different age groups are involved, the preference shall be to follow the guideline for the oldest child, so that the children remain together.

6. *Cancellation*. For weekend visits, the primary parent shall have the child available for one hour after the scheduled starting time. If the other parent does not pick up the child within that hour, then the weekend visit shall be deemed canceled.

7. *Priorities Under the Residential Schedule*. Holidays have priority over other special occasions. Special occasions have priority over school vacations.

8. *Parental Cooperation*. These provisions are designed to encourage each parent to maintain a loving, stable, and nurturing relationship with the child. Each parent shall encourage the parent/child relationship of the other parent, and shall make residential arrangement decisions which are in the best interest of the child.

J. Pro Se Parenting Plans/Child Support Orders.

In any action in which child support or residential care of a minor child or children is an issue and in which none of the parties is represented by counsel, the parenting plan and child support documents shall first be reviewed, approved, and initiated by the Court Facilitator. If a proposed parenting plan is filed, it need not be initialed or approved by the Court Facilitator, but any parenting plan submitted for court approval must be so initialed and approved.

If the parenting plan or child support order is the result of mediation, the mediator shall affix a declaration to the parenting plan or child support order submitted for court approval, signed under penalty of perjury, that the parenting plan/child support order is the result of mediation, the date that such mediation occurred, and the name of the mediator or and/or mediation service.

[Adopted January 1, 1999; amended effective September 1, 2016]