

CASS COUNTY FOC COVID-19 CUSTODY/PARENTING TIME GUIDE

Co-Parenting is challenging.
The COVID-19 pandemic makes co-parenting even tougher.

The Cass County FOC suggests that Both Parents:

- **Follow** the Court's orders **AND**
- **Be Flexible** taking into account the entire family (mom, dad, & children) **AND**
- **Communicate** with each other

Positive COVID tests & COVID Quarantines

IF EITHER PARTY LEARNS THAT THEIR CHILD, A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER, OR A PERSON THE FAMILY IS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH:

- Has tested positive for COVID-19, or
- Has been exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, or,
- Has been told by a health professional to test for COVID-19

THAT PARTY SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE OTHER PARENT & THEN TAKE MEDICALLY APPROPRIATE ACTION TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS, INCLUDING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND/OR CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION (CDC).

If a positive COVID-19 test or quarantine interferes with the regular parenting time schedule, the Cass County FOC suggests that Both Parents:

- Work together to determine what is in their child(ren)'s best interests
- Work together to determine if parenting time happens as ordered
- Work together to determine when make-up parenting time will happen if parenting time as ordered is not able to occur

If the parties are unable to work together and figure out the situation and if parenting time is denied, the parent denied parenting time may contact the Cass County FOC by submitting a completed Parenting Time Complaint form or sending an email to the Cass County FOC at foc@cassco.org providing details about what happened (when parenting time was denied; for how long parenting time was denied; etc.). The Cass County FOC will then review the situation and notify both parents in writing about make-up parenting time.

RESOURCES

- **Michigan Legal Help:**
<https://michiganlegalhelp.org/>
- **Van Buren/Cass District Health Department:**
<https://vbcassdhd.org/>
- **Michigan Coronavirus information:**
<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/>
- **FAQ about Custody and Parenting Time:**
https://courts.michigan.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/COVID-19/CustodyPT-FAQ.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3MCQ7ht1QGrGi_8TyZY50pwf4eEvDu2kVIRRKSEzr5qsRA4w0bj_SHUG0
- **Legal Aid of Western Michigan:**
<https://lawestmi.org/>
- **Centers for Disease Control & Prevention:**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Cass County Friend of the Court: Serving & Empowering Families to Make Children's Lives Better

Email: foc@cassco.org Website: <https://casscourtsmi.org/foc/> Telephone: (269) 445-4436