

PTOC¹² Parenting Time Opportunities for Children

PTOC¹² is a coalition of twelve Child Support Enforcement Agencies along with members of the judiciary, domestic violence experts, visitation providers, fatherhood advocates, the Ohio Office of Child Support and other community stakeholders, with the mission of increasing parenting time opportunities for children in Ohio.

Parenting time also known as “visitation,” is the amount of time a child spends with each parent, as agreed upon in a parenting plan and/or ordered by a court.

Think Safety First.

Parenting time orders are not available or right for every case.

In some cases, establishing a parenting time agreement may not be safe for you or your child.

The PTOC program screens all parents for family violence and has resources available for parents with safety concerns.

How PTOC¹² Works

Step 1: Parents will receive a copy of Stark County Family Courts Standard Order of Parenting Time (Schedule A) with their Hearing Notice to Establish a Support Order.

Step 2: Before their support hearing, parents will complete a questionnaire to determine their eligibility for PTOC.

Step 3: If both parents are eligible, they are offered an opportunity to establish a standard parenting time order at their administrative hearing.

Step 4: If the parties would like a parenting time order but do not agree to the standard parenting time order, no parenting time will be done and they will be referred to other community resources and not eligible to participate in the PTOC¹² program. Either party may pursue parenting time through the courts at your own cost.

Who is Eligible to Participate?

Parents who:

- Were never married to each other,
- Do not have a child support order established,
- Agree to establish a parenting time order with their Child Support Enforcement Agency, and
- Successfully complete all intake and screening requirements.

Things to Consider

Ohio’s Parenting Time Opportunity for Children Programs is required to have a plan to screen all cases for family violence. In some cases, CSEA may not be able to facilitate parenting time orders. If your screening shows a need for services, parents can receive referrals to community service providers if they don’t qualify for PTOC.

- Once Established, Parenting Time Orders can only be modified or enhanced by the local court, at a cost paid by the parents. Not following the court order could be the basis for a finding of contempt, and issues of child custody could be addressed.
- Participation is voluntary. All parents can establish a child support order without establishing a parenting time order.

Research demonstrates that children flourish best when they have two supportive and loving parents in their lives, even if the parents do not live together.

A structured approach to parenting time can help both parties manage their co-parenting relationship as well as reduce conflict that can harm their children.