

Parenting Time Under the Governor's Shelter in Place Executive Order

FOC Information and FAQs

Governor Whitmer's Executive Order requiring citizens to "shelter in place" beginning March 24, 2020, permits parents to travel as required to permit parenting time exchanges under a valid custody or parenting time order. **Please continue to follow your parenting time orders.**

- Parents are encouraged to follow their respective parenting time orders under section (B) (4) of Executive Order 2020-21, which states (emphasis added):

B. Individuals may also travel:

1. To return to a home or place of residence from outside this state.
2. To leave this state for a home or residence elsewhere.
3. To travel between two residences in this state.

4. *As required by law enforcement or a court order, including the transportation of children pursuant to a custody agreement.*

- Read the Executive Order here: www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/.

FAQs. Here is some guidance from the FOC about how your current custody and parenting time orders will be treated by our office. We offer these suggestions in response to potential questions parents may have.

Q: What do we do if our order for Spring Break states it starts at the release of school or the day school releases for the break?

A: *FOC will treat spring break as the same block of time it would have been had school shutdowns not occurred.*

Q: What if our exchange for parenting time is a public place that is closed?

A: *The exchange can still occur in the parking lot of the exchange location.*

Q: Do I have to send my child for Court Ordered parenting time?

A: *Yes, it is expected that the orders will be followed as written. We encourage parents to work together and make reasonable efforts to ensure that parenting time occurs as ordered, even if exchange locations are impacted by COVID-19 closures/mandates.*

Please put any agreements that modify parenting time for COVID-19 in writing.

Q: Is FaceTime, Skype, or other similar product an option to sending my child for parenting time?

A: *This is an option if both parties agree to this as an option and both parties have the resources.*

Q: If I feel the other parent is not following the order due to COVID-19 and I file a complaint with the FOC how will it be handled?

A: *Any COVID-19 related complaints filed with the FOC will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.*

We encourage parents to work together and make reasonable efforts to ensure that parenting time occurs as ordered, with the child's best interest in mind. If the parties agree that the current order is not in the child's best interest at this time, an option would be that they agree to make-up time at a later date, or other make arrangements as they agree. Remember to put any agreements in writing.

Feel free to call us at 616-632-6888 with questions. Due to COVID-19, we have reduced staff in the office and many of us are working remotely and will respond as quickly as we can. Thank you in advance for your patience in us getting back to you.

For some more good tips on parenting time and COVID-19, visit:

<https://www.afccnet.org/Portals/0/COVID19Guidelinesfordivorcedparents.FINAL.pdf?ver=2020-03-17-202849-133>.