

OTHER RESOURCES

Arizona Supreme Court

Planning for Parenting Time: Arizona's Guide for Parents Living Apart (booklet)

Court Services Division, Court Programs Unit
1501 W. Washington, Ste. 410 | Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 452-3360 | www.azcourts.gov

Maricopa County Superior Court

www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/Self-ServiceCenter

Father Matters (parenting classes)

(602) 774-3298 | www.fathermatters.org
3146 E. Wier Ave., Ste. 26 | Phoenix, AZ 85040

New Beginnings (parenting classes)

Southwest Human Development
2850 N. 24th St. | Phoenix, AZ 85008
(602) 633-8819 | www.swhd.org

DES Division of Child Support Services

www.azdes.gov/dcsc/ParentingTime



PARENTING TIME

Spending time together
when you live apart

*"Any man can be a father ...
it takes a special person to be a dad."*
— Proverb

— MARICOPA COUNTY —

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WHAT IS PARENTING TIME?

Parenting time is the time you spend with your child, being a parent. This could include time spent together during outings to places around town, or time spent with you in your home. Parenting time can be for a few hours, or for days at a time.

WHAT ABOUT LEGAL DECISION-MAKING?

Legal decision-making, which used to be called legal custody, is the right to make significant, nonemergency decisions for the child, including decisions about **education, health care, religious training and personal care**. It does not include the routine decisions you will need to make while the child is with you, such as what the child will eat for dinner, which bedtime story to read, which movie or television show the child will watch, or what the child will wear to school.



"The smallest moments can have the biggest impact on a child's life."
— Author unknown

In Arizona, parents can have sole or joint legal decision-making authority. **Joint** legal decision-making means that both parents work together to make major decisions for their child. **Sole** legal decision-making authority means that one parent makes the major decisions for the child. Legal decision-making authority is addressed at the same time that a parenting time plan is put in place.

WHAT IS A PARENTING TIME PLAN?

A **Parenting Time Plan** is a schedule that tells each parent when they will have their child with them for parenting time. There are all kinds of parenting plans, and yours can be customized for your unique situation.

DO I NEED A PARENTING TIME PLAN?

Having a parenting time plan allows both parents and children to know when they will be spending time together as a family. You can plan your schedule knowing what days and times you will have your child with you. Children also benefit from knowing when they get to spend time with mom or dad.



HOW DO I GET A PARENTING TIME PLAN?

Interactive forms for Maricopa County can be found on the Judicial Branch of Arizona Court's website at:

<https://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/ezcourtforms>

These forms are also available at the Self Service Center in each Regional Superior Court facility:

- **Central Court Complex**
101 W. Jefferson St. | Phoenix, AZ 85003
- **Northwest Regional Center**
14264 W. Tierra Buena Lane | Surprise, AZ 85374
- **Northeast Regional Center**
18380 N. 40th St. | Phoenix, AZ 85032
- **Southeast Court Complex**
222 E. Javelina | Mesa, AZ 85210

You may also download the forms from the Self Service Center's website at:

<http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/Self-ServiceCenter/>

"To be in your children's memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today."
— Barbara Johnson

