MY COLORING CALENDAR 2017
A KID’S GUIDE TO SHARED FAMILY TIME
YOUR SUPPORT INSPIRES FUTURES!
Dear Parent,

The Arizona Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) recognizes that both parents want their children to grow up in a happy and healthy environment. When children have substantial, meaningful and continuing contact with each parent, better developmental results can be achieved overall. Our division is committed to supporting parenting plans to strengthen the families of Arizona by encouraging positive parental involvement.

Parents often worry about what they can do to help their children through a difficult time. When parents live in separate households, children benefit from knowing when they get to spend time with each parent. That focus is one of the reasons the DCSS is offering this calendar to assist children with tracking the time they will spend with each parent. It is the hope that this engaging calendar will offer a simple way for children to understand the parenting time schedule. The calendar helps to provide children with stability and consistency, while possibly assisting parents with their co-parenting and scheduling responsibilities.

We are pleased to be able to offer this calendar to your family, and genuinely hope it will provide an effective resource to you and your children that is both helpful and fun.

Sincerely,

Assistant Director
State of Arizona
Department of Economic Security
Division of Child Support Services

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Calendar Usage/Coloring Tips

- Start with a rainbow of colors. Use one color to show the days when you will be with mom. Use another color to show the days when you will be with dad, etc. Use crayons, colored pencils, colorful markers or glitter glue pens.
- Want to add sparkle but do not have glitter glue pens? Use washable, non-toxic “school” glue (such as Elmer’s® brand) to paste glitter on the page.
- Add your own stickers and decals to give your artwork added pop!
- Have fun!

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Parenting Time & Legal Decision-Making
For more information, please visit our web site at: www.des.az.gov/ParentingTime

DCSS Clearinghouse Address:
Support Payment Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 52107
Phoenix, AZ  85072-2107

DCSS Customer Service:
Metro Phoenix/Maricopa County: 602-252-4045
Toll-Free: 1-800-882-4151
https://des.az.gov/services/child-and-family/child-support
Important Facts About Parenting Time

Children Benefit When Parents ...
- Keep predictable schedules
- Are on time and have the child ready when it's time for the child to go with the other parent
- Exchange the child without arguing
- Support the child's relationship with the other parent
- Let the child carry “important” items such as favorite clothes, toys, and security blankets with them between parents’ homes
- Follow similar routines for mealtimes, bedtime, and homework time
- Handle rules and discipline in similar ways
- Help the child have regular contact with the other parent by phone, letter, email, and other forms of communication
- Support contact with grandparents, step-parents, and other extended family so the child doesn’t lose these relationships
- Are flexible so the child can take part in special family celebrations and events
- Give as much advance notice as possible to the other parent about special occasions or necessary changes to the schedule
- Include the other parent with travel dates, destinations, and places where the child and the parent can be reached on vacation
- Establish workable and respectful community with the other parent

Planning for Parenting Time
A parenting plan is a document that states when the child will be with each parent (parenting time) and how major decisions will be made (legal decision-making). Raising children presents challenges. When parents live in separate homes, the challenges are greater because relationships become more complicated. Unless special circumstances exist, preserving a healthy and ongoing relationship between children and both parents after divorce or separation is of greatest importance. Positive involvement with both parents furthers the child’s emotional and social development, academic achievement, and overall adjustment.

Choosing a Plan
An Arizona Guide for Parents Living Apart is available on the Arizona Supreme Court website at http://www.azcourts.gov/azsupremecourt.aspx (click on Self-Help tab, select “Family Law” from the drop-down menus, and click on “Booklets”). This Guide provides numerous suggested parenting plans, along with comments to help you decide what type of parenting plans, along with comments to help you decide what type of parenting plan will work best for you and your family.

Important Questions to Consider When Choosing a Plan
- How old is your child?
- How mature is your child?
- What is your child’s personality?
- How strong is your child’s attachment to each parent?
- Does your child have any special needs? Do you or the other parent have any special needs?
- What are your child’s relationships with siblings and friends?
- How far do you live from the other parent? Is the distance too far apart to maintain regular and frequent contact?
- How flexible are your schedules?
- Are there any transportation concerns?
- Do you and the other parent communicate and cooperate?

Tips About Holidays, School Breaks, and Vacation
- Each parent should encourage his or her extended family to adjust some of their schedules so the child can participate in celebrations during parenting time.

- Children thrive on healthy traditions and celebrations. They respond more enthusiastically to a plan when both parents work on it together and support it. Keep in mind how the holiday parenting time might affect these traditions and your child’s security.
- Schedule phone calls during a vacation or school break.
- Maintaining contact by phone, letter, text messaging, email, web cam and other technological means may be helpful and worthwhile. Virtual parenting, however, is not an ideal substitute for regular in-person contact and shouldn’t be used as an alternative that decreases the parenting time of a parent.

Travel
- If your child will be traveling to a different place, share information about where he or she will be staying, how best to contact the child, and when he or she will be returning.
- The non-traveling parent should also provide contact information if he or she will not be home during the child’s vacation.
- Air Travel. If it is necessary for a child to travel by air, direct flights between major cities are preferred over multiple stops or plane changes. Tickets should be priced at a 30-day advance notice, economy class, on major carriers.
- Consult each airline for how and when unaccompanied or monitored minors may fly.
- If a person younger than 18 is traveling in the United States along with only one parent or another adult, a court order or certified consent letter proving that both parents permit the trip should be carried.
- Border Travel. Children may leave the country without restriction but can’t return without proof of citizenship. Passports and visas are required.
- For requirements, review the crossing borders section of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security found on the DHS web page at http://www.dhs.gov/xtrvlsec/crossingborders/

Special Challenges
- Blended Families. At least one-third of all children in the U.S. are expected to live in a stepfamily before they reach age 18. When two families unite, new personalities, habits, rules, and memories become a part of the household. It takes time for children to adjust to the new family.
- Communication. Develop a plan for updating or relaying important information to the other parent rather than relying on your child to convey messages.
- Absent Parent. If a parent has never been a part of a child’s life or hasn’t had contact for an extended period, parenting time should start slowly and gradually increase as the child adjusts and feels comfortable.
- Exchanges. Make exchanges easier by following predictable schedules, avoiding conflict with the other parent in front of your child, and supporting your child’s relationship with the other parent.
- Moving. Arizona law permits a long-distance move of a child only when the move is in the best interests of the child.

Special Needs Children
- If possible, it is best if both parents attend their child’s doctor appointments and have an opportunity to ask questions and understand treatment protocol.
- The more serious the problem, the greater need for parents to talk to each other and keep each other informed.
- Learn to organize medication, medical equipment, and treatments.
- Parenting time schedule should fit the child’s medical needs.
Child Support Awareness Month

August 2017

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Child Support Awareness Month

1 2 3 4 5

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11 12 13 14 15

16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30

31
OCTOBER 2017

Sunday  Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday

1        2        3        4        5        6        7

8        9        10       11       12       13       14

Columbus Day

15       16       17       18       19       20       21

22       23       24       25       26       27       28

29       30       31

Halloween
February 2018

Sunday  Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday
28  20  13  64  11  18  26
16  9  12  19  27  25  7
32  5  14  21  41  8  15
49  2  9  16  22  49  10
57  3  10  17  24  57  11
278  4  11  18  25  278  12
136  6  13  20  26  136  13
154  14  14  21  27  154  14

Valentine’s Day  Statehood Day
President’s Day
June 2018

Father's Day
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Additional Resources for Parents and Kids

The following is a partial list of where to go for help. Some of the websites list other books and publications that you may find helpful. There may be community, local government or faith-based organizations in your area that provide co-parenting classes or support groups. A partial list of community resources is available from the DES website: https://www.azdes.gov/dcss/ParentingTime

Creating a Parenting Time Plan:

Arizona Supreme Court
Court Services Division, Court Programs Unit
Planning for Parenting Time: Arizona’s Guide for Parents Living Apart (booklet)
www.azcourts.gov

Maricopa County Superior Court
Prepare a Parenting Plan (booklet)

Parenting:

Father Matters
(602) 774-3298
www.fathermatters.org

New Beginnings (parenting classes)
(602) 633-8819
www.swhd.org

Attorney Help:

Arizona State Bar Association
(602) 252-4804
http://www.azbar.org/Public

Arizona Law Help
http://azlawhelp.org/

Report Child Abuse and Neglect:

Arizona Department of Child Safety
(602) 255-2500
https://dcs.az.gov

Travel:

Department of Homeland Security
(602) 542-7013
https://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/travel-overseas

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1-877-CBP-5511 (877-227-5511)
https://help.cbp.gov

Apache County:

Apache County Courthouse
Law Library, 2nd Floor
70 W. 3rd South
St. Johns, AZ 85936
www.co.apache.az.us

Baby Sprouts Healthy Start (child development)
323 S. Mountain Ave., Ste. 104
Springerville, AZ 85938
(928) 333-2415
http://www.co.apache.az.us/health/health-promotion/baby-sprouts-health-start/

Building Futures for Families (relationship education)
Arizona Youth Partnership
White Mountains Region
458 N. Butler Dr.
Springerville, AZ 85938
(928) 333-4003
www.azyp.org

Coconino County:

Coconino County Superior Court
Law Library and Self-Help Center
200 N. San Francisco St.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

La Paz County:

La Paz County Superior Court
The Courthouse - Law Library
1316 Kofa Ave.
Parker, AZ 85344

La Paz County Superior Court Clerk
http://wwwlapasuperiorcourtclerk.com/self-service-center.html

Colorado River Indian Tribal Court
26600 Mohave Road | P.O. Box 3428
Parker, AZ 85344
(928) 660-1366
http://www.crit-nsn.gov/critcourt/

Maricopa County:

Maricopa County Superior Court
For a list of regional court offices, see:
https://www.maricopaunitedcourts.com/CourtInformation/locations/index.aspx

Mohave County:

Mohave County Superior Court
For a list of regional court offices, see:
http://www.mohavecourts.com/clerk/ParentingTime.htm

Building Futures for Families (relationship education)
Arizona Youth Partnership
Colorado River Region
1902 Pacific Ave.
Kingman, AZ 86401
(928) 692-5889
www.azyp.org

Pima County:

Pima County Superior Court
Law Library, Rm 256
110 W. Congress St.
Tucson, AZ 85701
520-724-8456

Arizona Youth Partnership
Building Futures for Families (relationship education)
multiple locations in Pima County
Administrative Office: (520) 744-2127
www.azyp.org

Pinal County:

Pinal County Superior Court
971 N. Jason Lopez Circle | Bldg. A
Florence, AZ 85132
(520) 866-5400
www.courtpinalcountyaz.gov

Family Services of the Conciliation Court
119 W. Central Ave. | Coolidge, AZ 85128
(520) 866-7349
Email: mediator-pinal@courts.az.gov
www.pinalcountyaz.gov/fssc

Arizona Youth Partnership
143 S. Broad St. | Globe, AZ 85501
(928) 425-9276
www.azyp.org

Supervised Visitation & Safe Exchange
La Paloma Center
117 N. Florence St. | Casa Grande, AZ 85122
(520) 621-1503 (by appointment only)
against-abuse.org

Yavapai County:

Yavapai County Courthouse
120 S. Cortes St.
Prescott, AZ 86303

Yavapai County Courthouse
2840 N. Commonwealth Dr.
Camp Verde, AZ 86322
courts.yavapai.us/selfservicecenter/

Conciliation Court Services
courts.yavapai.us/superiorcourt/Conciliation-Services

Yuma County:

Yuma County Superior Courthouse
250 West 2nd St., Ste. L
Yuma, AZ 85364
http://www.yumacountyaz.gov/government/courts/juvenile-justice-center

Juvenile Courthouse
2440 West 28th St.
Yuma, AZ 85364