MY COLORING CALENDAR 2019
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

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!


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 mealtime, 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
- Provide 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 https://www.azcourts.gov (click on Self-Service 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 plan, 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 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 https://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/cross-us-borders

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.
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May 2019

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Cinco de Mayo

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Mother’s Day

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**Independence Day**

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Child Support Awareness Month
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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

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 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
  www.coconino.az.gov/index.aspx?

La Paz County:
- La Paz County Superior Court
  The Courthouse - Law Library
  1316 Kofa Ave.
  Parker, AZ 85344
- La Paz County Superior Court Clerk
- 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.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/CourtInformation/locations/index.asp

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
  http://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.pinalcountyazgov/fscc
- 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) 421-1503 (by appointment only)
  against-abuse.org

Yavapai County:
- Yavapai County Courthouse
  120 S. Cortez 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/supercourt/Conciliation-Services

Yuma County:
- Yuma County Superior Courthouse
  250 West 2nd St., Ste. L
  Yuma, AZ 85364
  http://www.yumaroundcourt.gov/juvenile-justice-center
- Juvenile Courthouse
  2440 West 28th St.
  Yuma, AZ 85364
  http://www.yumaroundcourt.gov/juvenile-courthouse