
Commission on Parenting Time Guidelines
Approved Amended Meeting Minutes
Best Western Ramkota
1400 8th Avenue NW
Aberdeen, SD (Prairie/Oz/Pioneer)
Monday, August 18, 2025
6:00 p.m. CDT
Zoom

Members Present: Judge Christina Klinger, Representative Brandei Schaeffbauer, Shanna Moke, Kylie Riggins, Kacy Kienholz, and Senator Tom Pischke.

Others Present: Caroline Srstka, UJS Staff Attorney, and members of the public Scott Sundberg, Senator Carl Perry, Christal, Eric Grover, and Melissa McCauley.

Call to Order: Judge Klinger called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Commission members introduced themselves.

Roll call: Srstka called the roll. Judge Klinger, Representative Schaeffbauer, Moke, Riggins, Kienholz, and Senator Pischke were present. Ryon Rypkema was absent.

Purpose of the Commission: Judge Klinger opened the meeting by welcoming members and introducing the purpose of the Commission, which is to review the existing parenting time guidelines and provide recommended updates. The goal is to identify areas that may benefit from clarification or revision, especially for use in cases where parents are unable to come to agreement on their own.

Approval of Agenda: Moke moved to approve the agenda of the August 18, 2025 meeting and public hearing. The motion was seconded by Senator Pischke. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion to approve July 28, 2025 minutes by Riggins. The motion was seconded by Schaeffbauer. Motion carried.

Public Hearing/Discussion: Media representative was present and inquired about the process. Eric Grover of the National Parents Organization explained that proposed updates had been submitted via email. Riggins reported that prior changes to the Guidelines had been well received, particularly the inclusion of charts for holiday scheduling and the sections addressing infants at various developmental stages. She also noted positive feedback regarding shared parenting options. The committee discussed the need to emphasize that the guidelines represent minimum standards rather than defaults, as some circuits have historically applied them as maximums.

Further discussion highlighted the usefulness of the enforcement clause, the positive reception of the neutral terms “Parent 1” and “Parent 2,” and the addition of Halloween as a designated

holiday. Pischke observed that the updated guidelines provide greater clarity than previous versions, particularly concerning holidays. Suggestions included adding a definition for joint physical custody, potentially drawing from case law, and considering culturally or religiously significant holidays, though caution was advised to avoid setting defaults in this area.

Senator Perry asked whether the guidelines were working fairly and effectively. Riggins and Judge Klinger affirmed that they represent a strong step forward in creating consistent standards across circuits and are significantly more inclusive and uniform than prior guidelines. Media raised questions regarding the timeline consideration for children. Riggins and Moke explained there is consideration of child development stages, the frequency of contact for attachment, and the need to address modern issues such as electronic communication and passwords. The goal is to establish and maintain relationships with all parents. Grover emphasized the importance of clarifying that the guidelines are minimums, not maximums, to ensure fairness for noncustodial parents. The meeting concluded with Senator Perry expressing appreciation for the organization and noting the leadership of Pischke and Schaefbauer in presenting thoughtful recommendations.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Hearing – August 25, 2025, 6:00 p.m.