
Commission on Parenting Time Guidelines
Draft Meeting Minutes
Holiday Inn City Centre
100 W 8th Street
Sioux Falls, SD (Skyline)
Monday, August 25, 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 Eric Grover, Robin Eich, Zac Martin, Rachel Preheim, Spencer Wrightsman, Mike Mathis, Derek (last name unknown), Bob Mercer, Keloland News.

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

Roll call: Srstka called 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: Senator Pischke moved to approve the agenda of the August 25, 2025 meeting and public hearing. The motion was seconded by Representative Schaeffbauer. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion to amend the August 18, 2025 draft minutes to add Senator Pischke's first name, Tom, in the "members present." The motion was seconded by Moke. Motion carried. Motion to approve the August 18, 2025 minutes as amended by Senator Pischke. The motion was seconded by Representative Schaeffbauer. Motion carried.

Public Hearing/Discussion: Public comments were received. Spencer Wrightsman expressed hesitations with Section 4.12 of the Parenting Guidelines, particularly concerning communication between parents of children aged 14 and older through social media. He suggested clarifying the definition of "social media" to ensure privacy and to broaden its scope. Wrightsman also recommended including a definition for joint physical custody, noting that such a definition could reduce court fees, and he committed to emailing proposed language.

Derek (LU) shared concerns about the application of the guidelines in custody cases, describing his experience with a recent hearing. He stated that the guidelines are often used as a maximum rather than a minimum framework, limiting equal parenting time. He expressed frustration that the guidelines can serve as a barrier in joint custody cases, particularly for children under five. Judge Klinger responded that the commission cannot address individual cases but emphasized that the guidelines are designed to provide minimum visitation in the absence of parental agreement, ensuring the best interests of the child.

Robin Eich, an attorney, mediator, and parenting coordinator, highlighted relevant statutes: SDCL 25-4A-21 (defining joint custody to include joint physical custody), 25-4A-7.1 (authorizing joint legal and physical custody orders), and 25-4A-24 (listing factors the court must consider). She noted that judges consistently rely on these statutes and that stipulations and agreements should define custody terms clearly. She also commented on holiday schedules, explaining that while major holidays are typically included (Easter, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, Christmas), many attorneys do not include holidays such as Juneteenth, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, or Presidents' Day, as well as certain Native American holidays, because not everyone receives those days off.

Zac Martin, representing the nonprofit *Kids Deserve Dads*, described the organization's parent classes, support services, and supervised visits. He reported that many parents experience court orders adopting the minimum guidelines as the standard, reinforcing the perception that the guidelines serve as a ceiling rather than a floor.

Representative Schaefbauer moved to adjourn the meeting, with a second from Moke. Motion carried and meeting adjourned.

Next Hearing – September 15, 2025, 6:00 p.m. MT, Rapid City, SD.