

## Local Rule 25.2

### VISITATION RULES FOR PLAYING FAIR

To help you and your spouse minimize difficulties in living with visitation, the following guidelines should be heeded.

#### NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT:

1. If you have no prearranged schedule for visits, always give fair notice of an intended visit.
2. Do not keep the children out too late; stick to the agreed-upon hours.
3. Do not make an appointment to see your child if you do not plan to keep it. Your child needs to be able to rely on you.
4. If you must cancel a day visitation, give at least forty-eight hours notice, and at least a week's notice for missing a multiple-day visitation.

#### BOTH PARENTS:

1. Do not use your child to spy on or carry messages to your ex-spouse; do not question the child about the parent's activities.
2. Do not belittle your ex-spouse to the child.
3. Be willing to compromise on the timing of visits, especially as your child grows up, as your children have a right to a life and interests of their own.

#### CUSTODIAL PARENT:

1. Do not threaten to stop visits if child support checks do not arrive. The court cannot impose this sanction, and your interference with visitation could affect your custody status.
2. Do not make excuses to block visits to the other parent. Your child has a right to see the other parent and needs both of you.

Remember visitation is a dual right. It involves each parent's right to share in the life of the child and the child's right to know both parents and to enjoy their companionship. If you and your spouse remember your child's interests, visits will be happier and more beneficial for all.

From Divorce in New York State by Grier Raggio, Jr. et al

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