



Calculating the Number of Overnights

The steps listed here provide a method for counting the number of overnights and offer a close estimate. The most accurate way to count the number of overnights is to mark 24 calendar months with the parenting schedule and count the number of days each parent has the child(ren). Divide the total by 2 to get the annual average. With either method, overnight may mean “overnight equivalent” as stated in Minn. Stat. § 518A.36, subd. 1(a).

Step 1: Determine how many special overnights each parent has each year for two years

A special overnight is any overnight that overrides the regular schedule, such as holidays, vacation, etc., that involve one or more overnight stays.

	Parent A	Parent B	Total per Year
Year 1			
Year 2			
Total per parent			

Step 2: Subtract the total number of special overnights for both parents for both years from 730.

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Step 3: Determine the percentage of regular parenting time for each parent

Take the number of overnights a parent has in a regular 14-day period and divide by 14. For example, say a parent has every other Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night as the only overnights. 3 divided by 14 means the percentage of parenting time is 21%.

	Parent A	Parent B
Overnights in 14 days		
Divided by 14		
Equals percentage of parenting time		

Step 4: Determine the number of overnights for each parent

Use Step 2’s result (the number of overnights remaining after deducting special overnights) times the percentage of regular parenting time for each parent from Step 3.

The result is the number of regular overnights each parent has over a two-year period.

	Parent A	Parent B
Remaining days		
Times % of regular parenting time		
Total per parent		

Step 5: Calculate the number of overnights for each parent for the child support calculator

Add the number of special overnights (from Step 1) for Parent A to the number of regular overnights for Parent A (from Step 4). Divide that result by 2, since the overnights are for a two-year period. Repeat for Parent B.

	Parent A	Parent B
Special overnights		
Regular overnights		
Divided by 2*		

* Make sure the total overnights for Parent A and Parent B = 365

Enter these numbers into the child support calculator.