



Supervised Visitation

Supervised Visitation allows a parent to visit with his or her child/ren in a safe environment with the presence of an Arizona Family Connections Visitation Monitor, who acts as a neutral third-party observer.

The Arizona Family Connections Visitation Monitor will observe, provide guidance and suggestions (when appropriate), and provide documentation for authorities such as the parents, attorneys, DCS or the court. Monitors will conduct an Interview, and will provide family with guidelines, agreement document, and other forms as outlined in SV Welcome packet and Monitor documentation, as provided by Arizona Family Connections.

Visitation Monitors must complete a minimum of 25 hours of training and mandated reporter training.

Supervised Visitation Intake

During the intake process, the following information should be gathered. This information must be re-verified with the parent before each visit or exchange. This is not a one-time collection of the information below:

- Make and model of all vehicles
- License plate numbers
- Current drivers' license numbers
- Full description and pictures of the child and parent

Supervised Visitation, Before the Visit

Prior to the visit, staff must:

- Determine whether an additional provider or staff member should be present in the visitation room, or the adjoining room or designation area.
- Where the provider has identified a risk of abduction from the court order and/or the safety screening process, the provider should agree to monitor visits at a location other than the provider's premises only where the provider believes, after doing a safety plan of such alternate site, that a safe visit can occur in such location. Even if a court order specifies an alternate site, the provider should not provide services if the provider cannot ensure safety for all involved.
- If the provider is conducting the visit off-site as allowed by the Court, then the provider must determine whether they can make every reasonable effort to provide a safe visit for the child and the noncustodial party.

- If the risk is deemed to be acute, two monitors must be assigned to the visit and/or case acceptance will be denied based on safety and security concerns.

Supervised Visitation, the Visit

During the Supervised Visit:

- Allow no other visitors during the parent-child visit unless in the court order. Should the parent bring someone with them during the visit, the person will be instructed to leave the premises immediately and/or the visit will be canceled.
- Allow no whispering between the child and parent, no exchange of body signals between parent and the child that are unfamiliar to the provider, and there should be no communication between the parent and the child in a language that provider does not understand fluently.
- Allow no passing of notes to the child unless staff has already reviewed it. Actions such as the above can lead to possible abduction, or the parent may be encouraging or setting up a situation for future abduction of the child.
- If one needs to visit the restroom, everyone goes and will wait by door or nearby. Child, if old enough to go to the restroom by self, can go by self. Visiting parent may assist very young child, but door must remain cracked open. Monitor must use best judgment in balancing child privacy, respect for parenting tasks (such as assistance with toileting), and safety of all involved.
- After the visit, the non-custodial parent will exit the area and leave the premises before the child leaves the assigned visitation room.
- Staff is to notify the Supervisor of potential risks or concerns to determine whether the visit should be suspended or terminated for safety issues. The Supervisor is responsible for developing a plan of communication should further action need to be taken during the visitation or future scheduled visits.