

## **Court Ordered Supervision**

### **Information Packet**

#### **Services Provided:**

Our primary service is the supervision of court-ordered parent–child visitation and assistance with the safe reintroduction of a parent into a child’s life. In many family law matters or other cases affecting the parent–child relationship, a neutral third party is required to supervise visitation between a parent or another party and a child or children.

Reasons for referral may include, but are not limited to, allegations or concerns involving sexual, physical, or emotional abuse; parental alienation; domestic violence; kidnapping; substance abuse; or mental illness of a parent. We have extensive experience working with families impacted by trauma. All supervisors are mental health professionals.

Services are established by the mutual consent and cooperation of all parties involved and may continue only so long as such cooperation exists. Any additional individuals wishing to be present during visitation must be approved at least 48 hours in advance. Failure to obtain approval will result in denial of the visit.

Visitation will occur at a predetermined location agreed upon by the supervisor. If visits are consistently uneventful, off-site visits or field trips may be permitted at the supervisor’s discretion.

#### **Initiating Services:**

Services begin with an intake interview, during which each client completes required paperwork, reviews policies and procedures, and participates in an assessment of the family situation to ensure appropriate services. The intake interview also provides an opportunity to ask questions and establish a cooperative working relationship to support successful supervision.

To schedule an intake interview, please contact me at 903-361-7045.

#### **Fees:**

\$75.00 initial administrative fee to establish services

\$50.00 per hour for one child and one adult

\$60.00 per hour for two children and one adult

\$70.00 per hour for three children and one adult

Additional fees apply for more than one adult

Additional fees apply for more than three children

\$25.00 per hour for video recording, in addition to the regular visit fee

\$35.00 per hour for each additional supervisor required

\$1.00 per mile for fuel if the visitation site is more than 10 miles outside of Sherman

\$150.00 per court report

Payment is required 48 hours in advance and may be made by cash, Zelle, or Wave invoice.

Failure to provide at least 8 hours' notice of cancellation will result in a cancellation fee equal to the full visit cost, payable by the canceling party.

Failure to provide at least 4 hours' notice of rescheduling will result in a \$50.00 rescheduling fee, in addition to the regular visit fee.

Any party who fails to appear for a scheduled visit (no-show) will be responsible for the full visit fee plus a no-show fee.

If any supervisor other than Cecilia Powers, LCSW-S, is subpoenaed to testify in court, a fee of \$200.00 per hour, door-to-door, plus mileage and expenses, will be charged to the party issuing the subpoena. This includes travel time, waiting time, and court time. A minimum charge of \$500.00 applies.

If any supervisor is subpoenaed, Cecilia Powers, LCSW-S, will also be subpoenaed and present. Her rate is \$250.00 per hour, door-to-door, plus mileage and expenses, charged to the subpoenaing party. This includes travel time, waiting time, and court time, with a minimum charge of \$750.00.

If the court hearing or trial is canceled, postponed, or delayed for any reason with less than one week's notice, the court retainer is non-refundable.

Other fees will be assessed according to policies for other court involved work.

If the custodial parent is more than 10 minutes late for drop-off or pick-up, a \$1.00 per-minute charge will be assessed until arrival and is payable by the custodial parent, plus an hourly rate of \$50 for any late pick-up over 30 minutes.

**Service Policies:**

An adult must accompany the child(ren) into the designated visitation site. That adult may depart until the other parent or party arrives, in order to deter aggressive behavior. Parties are not permitted to interact during drop-off or pick-up unless prior arrangements have been made with the supervisor.

Visitation will not occur if any individual appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or is experiencing emotional instability that could endanger the physical or emotional welfare of the child(ren).

Weapons of any kind—including but not limited to firearms, knives, brass knuckles, and pepper spray—are strictly prohibited during visitation.

Physical discipline is not permitted. Verbal threats, vulgar language, or abusive behavior toward anyone present during the visit are prohibited.

Issues related to divorce, pending litigation, or future living arrangements may not be discussed in the presence of the child(ren). Derogatory remarks about the other parent or family members are prohibited. No one may question or encourage a child to discuss information about the other parent. A parent may not ask the child where they wish to live.

Any threats of physical violence or implied threats of kidnapping will be taken seriously and will result in immediate notification of law enforcement.

The supervisor reserves the right to terminate services at any time when deemed appropriate.

Any party identified as a potential flight risk must surrender car keys, cell phones, or other means of communication or transportation prior to the visit. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the visit and assessment of a rescheduling fee. Additional boundaries may be required based on the nature of the allegations.

**Visitation Policies:**

Parents are responsible for their child(ren)'s behavior during visits and are expected to demonstrate appropriate parenting skills.

Regular visits must be scheduled with at least 72 hours' notice. Rescheduling requires at least 4 hours' notice to avoid a \$50.00 fee. Cancellations require at least 8 hours' notice to avoid being charged the full visit fee.

Permission for additional adults or children to attend a visit must be requested at least 48 hours in advance by contacting Cecilia Powers, LCSW-S. Unauthorized individuals will not be permitted to attend.

Visits are limited to the individuals named in the court order. Approved additional attendees must follow all policies. If an additional person interferes with the visit, the supervisor has sole discretion to deny or terminate their participation.

The supervisor has final authority over activities during visits. Any planned activities must be approved at least 48 hours in advance.

Children must remain within the supervisor's sight and hearing at all times. Attempts to evade supervision will result in immediate termination of the visit.

If the supervisor determines that the child(ren)'s health, safety, or welfare is at risk, the visit may be terminated. If services are terminated, the court, the attorneys of record, the attorneys ad litem, and Child Protective Services will be notified, as appropriate.

Supervisors cannot discuss case details, court matters, or information about the other party. All case-related inquiries should be directed to the party's attorney.

Audio or video recording of visits is prohibited without prior approval from the supervisor.