

Court Ordered Supervision

Information Packet

Services Provided:

Our primary service is to provide the supervision of court ordered parent-child visitation, as well as assisting in the reintroduction of a parent in to a child's life. There are many situations in family law cases, or other cases affecting the parent-child relationship, when the need arises for a neutral third party to supervise visitation between a parent, or another party, and a child or children. Reasons for referral include sexual, physical, and emotional abuse of a child, parent alienation syndrome, domestic violence, kidnapping, drugs and alcohol abuse by a parent and mental illness of a parent. We have a great deal of experience in dealing with family trauma. All supervisors are mental health professionals. Services are established by mutual consent of all parties involved and can only continue as a result of cooperation by all parties. All additional persons to be present at visitation periods shall be pre-approved at least 48 hours in advance or the visitation will be denied. Visitation will take place at a predetermined location agreed upon by all parties. If supervised visitation periods are uneventful, then field trips away from the predetermined location will be allowed, subject to the supervisor's discretion.

Initiating Services:

Services begin with an intake interview in which each client completes paperwork, learns about policies and procedures along with an assessment of the family situation to ensure proper services to each individual family. This interview provides the forum where questions are answered and a cooperative working relationship is established therefore creating a foundation for successful supervision. To schedule an intake interview, please contact me at 903-361-7045.

Fees are as follows:

\$50.00 initial administration fee for setting up services.

\$40.00 per hour for one child and one other party

\$50.00 per hour for two children and one party

\$60.00 per hour for three or more children and one party

\$25.00 per hour for videotaping in addition to the regular fee

\$35.00 per hour for each additional supervisor that is required.

\$1.00 per mile for fuel fees if visitation site is more than 10 miles outside of Sherman/Denison.

\$100.00 per report to the court

Payment is expected 48 hours in advance by cash, money order or online via PayPal/Venmo/Zelle

Failure to provide 8 hours advance notice of cancellation of a scheduled visitation period will result in a cancellation fee equal to the amount of the visit, payable by the party canceling visitation.

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

Any party who is no-shows for a scheduled visit will be financially responsible for the entire fee.

If any supervisor is subpoenaed to court to testify, a charge of \$200.00 per hour, door to door, plus mileage and expenses will be assessed and shall apply to all time spent either on travel time, court time, waiting time, etc. to the party issuing the subpoena. This is a minimum of \$500.

If the custodial parent is more than 10 minutes late picking up your child/children or more than 10 minutes late dropping off your child/children, there will be a charge of \$1.00 per minute added until arrival to be paid by the custodial parent.

Service Policies:

1. An adult must accompany the child/children inside the designated visitation site but can depart at that time until the other parent or party arrives to deter any aggressive behavior. Parties are not to interact with each other while picking up/dropping off before or after a visit to prevent any conflict between the two parties in the presence of the child(ren).
2. No visitation will take place with any person who appears to be or who is believed to be under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or who appears to be experiencing emotional problems to the extent that the physical or emotional welfare of the child/children might be endangered.
3. No weapons of any kind (including but not limited to guns, knives, brass knuckles, pepper spray etc) are allowed to be in the possession of anyone during the visit.
4. No physical discipline will be used by anyone participating in a supervised visit. Verbal threats, vulgar or abusive language directed toward anyone present during supervised visitation is not permitted.
5. During a visit, no one will discuss issues related to the divorce, pending litigation, or future living arrangements in the presence of the child/children. No derogatory remarks about the other parent or family members shall be made in the presence of or hearing range of the child/children. No one is permitted to ask questions of a child/children or encourage a child/children to discuss information about the other parent. During the visit, a parent will not ask the child where he/she wants to live.
6. Any threats of physical violence to anyone present during a visit, or any implied threat of kidnapping, will be taken seriously and will result in summoning of law enforcement officers.
7. The supervisor reserves the right to terminate services at any time, when appropriate.
8. Any party who is known or suspected of being a "flight risk" while visiting the child must surrender their car keys, cell phone, or any other outside communication/transportation means they may have prior to the start of the visit. Failure to do so will forfeit your right to the visit and it will be rescheduled and a rescheduling fee will be assessed. The supervisor will need to have adequate information about the allegations to additional boundaries may need to be set beyond the standard guidelines.

Visitation Policies:

1. Parents are expected to be responsible for their child/children's behavior during visits and are expected to exhibit appropriate parenting skills during parent-child visits.

2. All regularly scheduled visits will only be arranged when notice is given 72 hours in advance. Rescheduling a visit must be made 4 hours before a visit to prevent a \$50 late rescheduling fee from being assessed. A cancellation of a visit must be made 8 hours before a visit in order to prevent the total amount of the visit being required to be paid.
3. Any parent desiring other adults or children to attend their supervised visit is required to secure permission 48 hours prior to the scheduled visit. Any unauthorized visitor will **not** be allowed to remain for the visit.
4. Visits are only for the party or parties named in the Court's order. Any additional approved person(s) attending a visit must follow the guidelines and policies. If the additional person(s) interferes with the positive nature of the visit, then the supervisor has the sole discretion to deny the additional person visitation or may ask them to leave at any time.
5. We have the final authority in determining the activities during visits. If the parent has a specific activity planned during the visit such as a trip to the lake, ice skating or roller-blading, then the parent needs to notify the supervisor 48 hours in advance.
6. During visitation times, parents are to keep the child/children within the supervisor's sight and hearing at all times. Any attempt to evade the supervisor or to trail far enough where you can no longer be heard will terminate your visit.
7. Should the supervisor determine that the health, safety, or welfare of the child/children is endangered at any time during the visit, the supervisor has the authority to terminate the visit. If it is determined that services need to be terminated, the Court, attorneys of record, attorneys ad-litem, and Child Protective Services will be notified, if appropriate.
8. Do not attempt to discuss with your supervisor about any information about the other party or the courts regarding your case. Any information known about the matter is confidential and if you are inquiring about something regarding your case, then please consult your attorney.
9. Neither party shall video or audio record any visit without prior knowledge of the supervisor.