

Guidelines for Supervision When Sexual Abuse Has Been Alleged

If the Court has ordered supervised visitation because of allegations of sexual abuse of a child, it is not the supervisor's role to validate or invalidate such allegations. However, it is important to create an environment that is safe and will operate with a structure which serves to protect all parties.

The following are the standard behavioral/physical boundaries which must be maintained between a child/children and parent who has been allegedly sexually abused the child/children:

1. The child may not sit on the parent's lap.
2. No full-body frontal hugging is permitted.
3. No kissing on the lips is permitted.
4. No wrestling or tickling is permitted.
5. Only English may be spoken during the visit.
6. All dialogue between the visiting parent and the child/children must be loud enough for the supervisor to hear.
7. The supervisor must be able to see the child/children at all times.
8. The visiting parent may not change the diapers or the clothes of the child/children, and may not be present in the room while the child is being changed.
9. The visiting parent may not examine the child/children physically, ask questions about intimate body functioning, discuss any sexual topics or body parts, or tell sexual jokes.
10. The visiting parent may not assist the child in the bathroom. It is important that the visiting parent understands the boundaries, and have a plan for dealing with them, before visit begin. Both the child and the visiting parent will be more comfortable if the parent takes responsibility for adhering to the boundaries without intervention. If the visiting parent does not adhere to the rules of the visit, they are at risk of losing their rights to future visits with the child.