

SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM

Safe contact. Steady connection.

What is supervised visitation?

Supervised visitation is contact between a non-custodial parent and one or more children in the presence of a third person who observes, documents, and works to keep everyone safe. All conversations and contact during a visit are observed and documented. Notes are taken, but the worker does not interact with the parties during the visit.

The Hope Council offers this program to help families reunite and maintain relationships — families in custody and visitation disputes, parents returning to their children's lives after a prolonged absence, and families separated because of domestic abuse, incarceration, child abuse or neglect, mental health, or substance use.

What is the purpose of the program?

This program is designed to assure that children have safe contact with their absent parents without being in the middle of the parents' conflicts or other problems. The guiding principle is to protect the best interest of children whose parents have a custody or visitation matter in the family courts.

Where do visits take place?

Visits only take place at the Hope Council, 6103 – 39th Ave., Kenosha. There are no community visits, and we do not provide transportation.

— WHO IT HELPS

Benefits of participation

FOR THE CHILD

- Children can maintain relationships with both parents.
- Children can look forward to visits without stress about conflicts between their parents.
- Children are in a safe, comfortable environment and are not placed in the middle of their parents' problems.

FOR THE CUSTODIAL PARENT

- All arrangements are made by the visitation worker, so there is no need for contact with a non-custodial parent there is conflict with or who may be causing intimidation.
- The parent can relax, knowing the visit is being observed closely.

FOR THE NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT

- Contact with the children is not interrupted because of problems with the other parent.
- If allegations have been made, the parent can be sure the supervisors are neutral and are present to verify what happens during the visit.

Common questions

What is the referral process?

The completed paperwork must be returned to the office. There are three forms — the Intake Form, the Authorization for Release of Information, and the Policies — that must be completed.

How long before my first visit is scheduled?

Due to the phone calls and scheduling, it could take up to four weeks before the first visit takes place.

How long will I visit at the Hope Council?

Most visits begin at one hour each week, with the possibility to increase time. As for longevity in the program, that is a decision that is never made by the program.

— FEES

What it costs

One-time enrollment fee (paid by the non-custodial or visiting parent)	\$50
Hourly visitation — 18 months of service or fewer	\$35 / hour
Hourly visitation — after 18 months of service	\$50 / hour
Hourly visitation — after 24 months of service	\$75 / hour

Cancellation fees may apply.

Does there need to be a court order?

There does not need to be a court order. However, if there is one, please enclose a copy with the returned paperwork if possible.

What is the visitation schedule?

We try to be flexible in order to facilitate the visitation. The goal is permanent time slots. Once a time slot is scheduled, that is the time slot that will be maintained.

Who decides when visits move away from the Hope Council?

That is the responsibility of the professionals involved and the parents involved.

The responsible party for paying the fee is typically determined by the courts. Only cash is accepted as payment. Refer to the Policies for full fee details.

We feel strongly about providing this service to the community at an affordable rate, so that families are able to visit with their children with reduced financial constrictions.

GET IN TOUCH

For more information on the Supervised Visitation Program, please contact us. We will walk you through the paperwork and next steps.

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