

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Tool: Supervision of Visits	Effective Date: June 1, 2008 <i>Most Recent Review: September 1, 2020</i>
	Reference: 8.C (8.13 Implementing the Visitation Plan)	Version: 1

How Much Supervision and Why?

The level and frequency of supervision required for visitation and how the supervision is handled will depend on the purpose for which it is required. Supervision of visits should be consistent with identified safety and risks and supportive of case goals. Some of the major purposes of supervision are:

1. Protective: The FCM has reason to believe:
 - a. The parent, guardian, or custodian; sibling; or other participants are likely to physically or emotionally harm the child during the visit; and/or
 - b. The parent, guardian, or custodian or other participants are likely to flee from the visit with the child.
2. Assessment: The FCM needs to observe and document the interactions between the parent, guardian, or custodian and the child. This is necessary for evaluating progress in meeting Case Plan and permanency goals, modifying the Case Plan and Visitation Plan, and ultimately determining if the child may safely return home.
3. Support and Treatment: Through supervision, the FCM may support the building of a mutually satisfying relationship between parent, guardian, or custodian and child. Supervised visits may also play a role in family treatment, especially when it involves teaching parenting skills. During visits, an FCM, substitute caregiver, therapist, or other professionals may teach appropriate child care and demonstrate ways of setting and enforcing limits. Teaching parenting skills may help the parent, guardian, or custodian develop a better way of interacting and communicating with his or her child.

Who Should Supervise?

Supervision of visits may be provided by a variety of persons depending upon the situation. Appropriate persons include the FCM, a foster parent, relative, service provider, residential facility staff, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) or Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), or another appropriate adult.

Regardless of who provides the supervision, the visit supervisor should document information about the visit in a visitation log. The information to be documented should include the following:

1. Date;
2. Time and location of visit;
3. Names of persons in attendance;
4. Detailed examples of the parent, guardian, or custodian's and the child's behaviors (positive and negative) during the visit; and
5. A summary of any activities that took place.

Note: Missed visits should also be documented, including reasons why, if known.

Progressively Decreased Supervision

Initially, most visits are fully supervised (the person providing supervision is in the room at all times) to ensure child safety and for the FCM to assess the parent, guardian, or custodian's strengths and needs as related to parenting. As visitation progresses, visits may transition to intermittently supervised (the supervising person need not be in the same room at all times). Finally, visits may progress to unsupervised.