

# *Do you want the kids to see their other parent?* *If yes, Supervised Visitation may be an option*

## Supervised Visitation & Safe Exchange Program Services - Questions and Answers for Parents

### Why use Professional Supervised Visitation and/or Safe Exchange Services?

Most parents tell us that they want their children to have a relationship with their other parent but they also tell us they want children to be safe from harm and they don't want to put themselves at further risk from their abusive partner.

Supervised visitation & safe exchange programs:

- Provide parents and their children with a comfortable and safe facility for court-ordered visitation.
- Protect the physical and emotional safety of the parent who has been a victim of domestic violence and their children, safeguard against further harm, and maintain parent and child connections.
- Have professional, highly trained, and knowledgeable staff that understand how abuse affects a family and values the background, unique needs and culture of your family.

### What is Supervised Visitation?

Supervised visitation is a time-limited visit between a non-custodial parent and their child(ren) at a safe, secure, and supportive facility in the presence of trained staff. Supervised visitation staff work to observe parent-child contact and protect children and the parent who has been abused from physical and emotional harm by enforcing ground rules and ensuring safety measures are followed.

### What is Safe Exchange?

The supervised transfer of children from one parent to the other parent where parents are prevented from having any physical or visual contact with each other. Safe exchange programs can offer a safe location for parents to pick-up and drop-off their children when the courts determine that the non-custodial parent may have unsupervised visits.

### Scheduling Services

To establish supervised visitation or safe exchange services with a professional provider, each parent will need to complete an orientation appointment. This is an opportunity for both parties to let the visitation center staff know any important information. During the orientation you can expect to: tour the facility, discuss safety concerns, learn about the services, and have time to ask questions. After completing the orientation, all parties will work with the staff to establish a visitation schedule. Please note that it may take up to two weeks to receive an appointment and completing an orientation appointment does not guarantee placement in the program.

### If you think you want Supervised Visitation

Go to the second floor, room 2100, to speak with the Supervised Visitation Court Liaison to get more information. If ordered, the liaison will work with you and the other parent to connect you to the visitation center that meets your needs.