



Safe Family Access Program

The Safe Family Access Program, a supervised visitation and monitored exchange service, is designed to help families visit on a consistent basis, in a neutral and safe setting. Qualified staff and the Lake County Sheriff's Department provide close and secure monitoring of all family visitations.

Purpose:

- ◆ Strengthen parent-child(ren) relationship(s) through regular contact.
- ◆ Maintain attachment between parent, child(ren), and siblings.
- ◆ Lessen separation impact on parents, child(ren).
- ◆ Give parent(s) chance to learn/practice newly-acquired skills.
- ◆ Provide opportunity to progress in any permanency planning.
- ◆ Allow the opportunity for assessment.

The Safe Family Access Program works to maintain safe and supervised contact between children ages birth-18 and parents when conflict has disrupted relationships due to:

- ◆ Domestic Violence
- ◆ Safety Concerns
- ◆ Child Abuse/Neglect
- ◆ Separating/Divorcing Parents

If possible, the transition to unsupervised, unrestricted contact is developed through interventions that include content related to:

- ◆ Skills of co-parenting.
- ◆ Understanding developmental stages of children.
- ◆ Rebuild and enhance relationships.
- ◆ Communication skills to manage and resolve conflict.

Goals:

- ◆ Provide safe, neutral and supportive environment to reduce trauma and negative impact of parent/caregiver-child separations.
- ◆ Provide assistance to families to stabilize parent-child(ren) relationships after a victimization of a child, or their primary caregiver, has occurred.
- ◆ Prevent child abuse, neglect, and trauma.
- ◆ Increase fathers' involvement.
- ◆ Improve parenting skills of one or both parents and co-parenting relationships.
- ◆ Improve families' access to community resources.
- ◆ Provide or arrange for the provision of family resource and support services.
- ◆ Increase parents' awareness and integration of knowledge/skills essential to develop/enhance family relationship.

Program Services:

Levels of supervision are determined on a case-by-case basis. Supervised visitation provides scheduled contact between a child (or children) and the child's biological, adoptive, or other relative in the presence of a third party. The program is structured to transition families to unsupervised, unrestricted contact, if deemed appropriate.

Levels of supervision that can be provided:

- ◆ Fully Supervised - On Site (In Room).
- ◆ Fully Supervised - On Site (On Camera).
- ◆ Intermittent Supervision.
- ◆ Beginning and Ending Supervision.

Additional visitation services may include:

- ◆ Therapeutic Visitation Services
- ◆ Home-Based Visitation Services
- ◆ Monitored Exchange - supervision of the transfer of the child from one parent to the other without parental/custodial interaction.

Referrals:

Referrals are received through individuals, court systems, attorneys, Guardian Ad Litem, social service entities, and child advocates. The Safe Family Access Program primarily serves Lake County, but does accept referrals from other counties.

Program Standards:

The Safe Family Access Program is a member of Supervised Visitation Network (SVN) and has been developed and implemented in accordance with the national standards of SVN.

Hours of Operation:

Services accommodate both school-aged children and schedules of parents. Office hours are by appointment only and typically occur on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Program Support:

The Safe Family Access Program is funded in part by the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services and the Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board.

Fee Schedule:

The Safe Family Access Program is funded in part by grant funds that allow us to provide services at reduced and/or no cost to eligible families.

For families that do not meet grant criteria, the following fee schedule is applied.

Supervised Visitation Services = \$40/Hour
Therapeutic Visitation Services = \$100/Hour
Transfer of Custody Services = \$20/Transfer
Registration Fee = \$100



For further information, contact:

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Art by Bobbi, age 14



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