

Supervised Parenting Time Agreement For the Non-Supervised Parent

This Agreement represents the Policies and Procedures of the Family Resource Center of Southwest Florida (FRC). Please read this Agreement carefully as it explains what is expected of you as the non-supervised parent, the roles and responsibilities of the monitor, and procedural and operational guidelines you are expected to follow as a client of the FRC.

Expectations of the Non-Supervised Parent

All visits are scheduled in 55 minute blocks once a week unless ordered otherwise by the Court. The maximum time for a supervised session is 2 blocks of time (110minutes).

It is the responsibility of the non-supervised parent to arrive on time for the supervised sessions and to leave promptly when the session is ended and the children are returned to you.

The children shall arrive at the Center dressed in appropriate clothing, including shoes, for the visit; shoes should preferably be gym shoes or other closed toe shoes with a non-skid sole.

When the supervised parenting time session concludes, a staff member will escort the child(ren) to the transporter at the entrance of the building. The supervised parent must remain in the building for an additional fifteen minutes to ensure the parties do not have any unsupervised contact.

The non-supervised parent shall not communicate with the supervised parent without the prior knowledge and consent of the supervisor. If an injunction is in place, there shall be no contact between the non-supervised and supervised parents.

The non-supervised parent shall notify the FRC Program Director of any changes to personal contact information.

The non-supervised parent shall keep the FRC Program Director apprised of the status of the court case warranting the supervised parenting time.

If a party is unable to be present for a scheduled supervised parenting time session, twenty-four hours' notice must be provided; failure to provide such notice may result in a late cancellation fee, a no-show fee, and/or forfeiture of your deposit. The Family Resource Center is responsible for notifying all parties in case of a cancellation. Individuals who develop a pattern of cancelling scheduled supervised parenting time or who have more than two consecutive cancellations may receive a letter or a phone call requesting a commitment to comply with visitation arrangements. Failure to respond or commit to the services may result in a suspension of services pending further action of the Court. If the Family Resource Center suspends supervised parenting time services, future sessions will not be scheduled without a review of the case.

If the non-supervised parent cancels the parenting time without the mutual agreement of the supervised parent, or consistently arrives late for the supervised parenting session, the non-supervised parent may be held responsible for the fee for that session.

The non-supervised parent shall not ask the child(ren) probing questions or make negative comments about their time with the supervised parent. Children are often vulnerable to feelings of guilt or shame if they enjoyed the time they shared with the supervised parent if they think the non-supervised parent will be upset with them for having a good time.

Supervisor's Duties and Responsibilities

The Supervisor's duties during the supervised parenting time include the following:

1. Following procedures to help ensure that no physical harm is directed toward child(ren) and/or to the other parent or to other program participants;
2. Monitoring conversations between the parent and child to protect against inappropriate remarks made to the child(ren) regarding other parent, other family members, or the case.
3. Providing guidance during the session when necessary by suggesting age-appropriate games or activities;
4. Redirecting or correcting inappropriate behavior, both physical and verbal, in a manner consistent with program rules;
5. Not letting personal feelings about the parents, child or situation interfere with objectivity;
6. Conducting an audio or visual recording of the session, if court ordered, with the mutual consent of the parents or if deemed necessary for the ongoing provision of services in the client's case.
7. The supervisor is not responsible for supervising the child(ren), but rather, supervising the parent's interaction with the child(ren).

Supervisors cannot:

1. Discuss information pertaining to families serviced by the FRC with people outside the FRC network without a signed release and designation as to with whom information may be shared;
2. Give out personal information about themselves
3. Offer advice or counseling about problems shared by the parties
4. Engage in dialogue about the "other" parent, stepparent, boyfriend/girlfriend
5. Engage in therapy or counseling, including suggesting a diagnosis, offering treatment interventions or advising clients on a course of action to take in their case.

In addition to attendance issues, The Family Resource Center may refuse or suspend supervised parenting time in cases where there are concerns for the level of risk, the safety of participants and/or other issues that cannot be effectively addressed or serviced by the Family Resource Center and its resources, or one or both parties have failed to comply with the program's or court's conditions for participation.

Procedural and Operational Guidelines

The Family Resource Center observes holidays recognized by the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Court's, Administrative Office of the Courts. The FRC reserves the right to reschedule a supervised parenting time session due to a holiday, scheduling conflict, an emergency or other reasons at the discretion of the Program Director.

The FRC staff may interrupt or cancel the supervised parenting time session if a violation of the Policies and Procedures or the signed Supervised Parenting Time Agreement occurs. In addition, staff will interrupt any visit during which any of the following occurs:

1. A child becomes acutely distressed;
2. When it is deemed by the supervisor that the child is in a situation of possible risk either emotionally or physically;
3. If the supervised parent acts in an inappropriate manner towards the child, staff or others present;

4. If derogatory comments or gestures are made about the other parent or staff members;
5. If there is conversation or sharing information with the child(ren) about custody, allegations, or court related issues;
6. The supervised parent asks the child(ren) who they want to live with;
7. The supervised parent asks the child(ren) for information about the other parent;
8. Either parent asks the child(ren) to carry messages to the other parent;
9. The supervised parent predicts and/or promises the child(ren) future changes in parenting time or the parenting plan;
10. The supervised parent making false promises, such as vacations, different parenting arrangements, or any inducements to unduly influence the child(ren).
11. The supervised parent discusses the details of any ongoing legal processes;
12. The supervised parent is under the influence of alcohol/drugs or exhibits belligerent, defiant or other inappropriate behavior.

If the Family Resource Center suspends supervised parenting time services, future sessions will not be scheduled without a review of the case. A notice of suspension or cancellation of services will be sent to the parties, their attorneys and to the Court. Upon suspension of services pending further review, the parties' current scheduled time slot will not be maintained as other cases may be scheduled during this time period.

Termination of Services

Supervised parenting time may be suspended by the Family Resource Center of Southwest Florida and then be reviewed afterward by the Court to determine if visits are to be terminated. Reason for suspension, and ultimately termination could include but are not limited to the following reasons:

- Safety concerns or other case issues that cannot be effectively managed by the Family Resource Center;
- Excessive demand on the resources of The Family Resource Center
- The parent's failure to comply with the conditions or rules for participation in the program.
- Threat of violence or abuse.
- Relocation of the supervised parent or child(ren)
- Graduation - the successful completion of the program
- Court order for the termination of supervision
- Attempts by the non-supervised parent to monitor or record the child's supervised time with the other parent through the use of electronic (monitoring) devices.

If the supervised parenting time is terminated due to numerous interventions or violations to the Policies and Procedures, the supervisor may speak to the supervised parent about the violation(s) and may provide suggestions on how the supervised parent correct the behaviors in question. The supervised parent is expected to respect the input and guidance of the supervisor.

Supervised parenting time will be cancelled or terminated if the supervised parent is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol, non-prescription drugs, or other substances that appear to be mood altering or affecting the parent's ability to manage their behavior according to the Policies and Procedures of the FRC.

Family members or friends may participate in the supervised parenting time when authorized by the Court (#4 in the Order for Supervised Parenting Time); if the court order does not limit or restrict additional persons from participating in the parenting time session, prior approval must be granted by the Supervisor in accordance with the Policies and Procedures of the Family Resource Center. All additional visitors are expected to comply with the terms of this agreement and the Policies and Procedures of the FRC. Failure to comply may result in being denied permission to participate in future sessions.

Mandated Reporting

The Family Resource Center staff are, by law, mandated reporters, and as such will report a child's disclosure of abuse or a suspicion of abuse to the Department of Children and Families. It is not the responsibility of the FRC staff to investigate the accuracy of the disclosure or suspicion.

Gift Giving

In developing the Family Resource Center's gift-giving policy, for supervised parenting time, the following issues have been considered:

- The potential for manipulation of the child by the parent through gift-giving;
- The potential for the gift to create a trigger that reminds the child of prior abuse;
- The opportunity for the parent/visitor to use the gift as a means to communicate with the other parent, contrary to court order;
- The socio-economic constraints of some parents, and the possible embarrassment a child may feel when seeing other children receive gifts at visits;
- The potential for other families to feel as though they must compete with the gifts;
- The need to treat all program participants fairly;
- The fact that, in dependency out-of-home cases, parents are often encouraged to bring toys, clothes, food, etc. to visits with their child(ren);
- The "normal" expectation of a child to receive a gift on or around his/her birthday, or certain holidays;
- The degree to which (if at all), food brought to the visit is to be considered a gift;
- The degree to which (if at all), money, gift cards, or items such as diapers and formula are to be considered gifts, when provided by the parent/visitor for the benefit, care, and/or maintenance of the child.

The Family Resource Center permits gift-giving with the following minimum provisions:

- For the safety of children and other individuals present at the supervised parenting time, all gifts brought for the child must be unwrapped or in a gift bag to allow for staff inspection prior to the visit;
- Any items brought to the supervised parenting time session but not permitted in the visitation room will be secured and returned to the parent/visitor at the conclusion of the visit;
- The Executive Director (or designated staff person) has the authority to prohibit the giving of a gift in any situation where it appears that the gift may be inappropriate, potentially harmful, or disturbing to the child or non-supervised parent.

The gift giving policy also includes the following minimum provisions in cases involving allegations (or known issues) of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse:

- FRC staff will require that the parent/visitor refrain from engaging in any discussions, activities or giving of gifts that are deemed inappropriate;
- Electronic devices (i.e., radio, CD players, head phones, tape recorders, cell phones, cameras, MP3 players, etc.) are permitted in the supervised area only with the approval of the monitor.

In making the case-by-case determination as to whether or not gift-giving is to be permitted, consideration will be given to the following:

- Input from the non-supervised parent;
- Information obtained from the dependency case manager (if applicable);
- Information obtained at the intake;
- Information from previous observations and supervised parenting time of the parent and child.

All packages brought to the session will be checked by a staff member prior to the commencement of the supervised parenting time. Packages that are wrapped must be unwrapped and shown to staff.

Cameras, cell phones, or recording devices of any kind may be used during the visit only with the knowledge and permission of the supervisor and with the knowledge of both parents. The non-supervised parent may not monitor the child's time with the supervised parents through the use of any electronic or monitoring/tracking device.

Case Notes and Records of the Supervised Session

The supervisor Supervised Parenting Time Observation Checklist designed to track the supervised parent's interactions and behaviors with the child(ren) as well as for quality assurance purposes.

All records are maintained by the Family Resource Center in individual case folders, according to the child's name and secured in a locked file cabinet. Records are presented only with a court order and subject to rules of discovery regarding the confidentiality of records; refer to Florida Statute 415.51 regarding child abuse/neglect, when appropriate. Staff will produce the records, including video or audio tapes (if available) to the Court, upon request of the judge or a subpoena duces tecum.

Record Retention: Files are kept secured and confidential in accordance with regulatory privacy statutes and for the time period mandated by the State of Florida.

The FRC provides intern learning opportunities and utilizes interns from accredited college/university programs of study and other community volunteers to assist with the monitoring or supervision of the supervised parenting time. Employees, student interns and volunteers are all held to the same standard of privacy and confidentiality of client cases. They are also regarded as mandated reporters in their supervision role with the FRC.

Fees for Programs and Services

The following fee schedule is in place for the supervised parenting time program at The Family Resource Center:

- Orientation/Intake fee:
 - \$80 Administrative fee to be paid by the supervised parent
 - \$80 Orientation and intake fee to be paid by each parent
 - \$80 Fee paid in advance for the first supervised parenting time to be paid by the supervised parent, unless otherwise directed by the Court order.
- Session fee:

\$80 per 55 minute session to be paid by the supervised parent unless otherwise ordered by the court

Longer sessions are prorated based on the \$80/55 minutes

- Therapeutic Supervision:
\$90 per 55 minute session
- Late Cancellation Fee:
Up to the total amount charged for the booked session.
- No-Show Fee:

The total amount for the booked session.
- Court testimony:
\$125/hour with a two hour minimum to be paid in advance of the court date; additional time, exceeding two hours, will be billed in 15 minute increments.
The fee for court testimony shall be paid in advance of the court date by the party whose attorney issued the subpoena.
- Subpoena for the Production of Documents from Non-party
The Family Resource Center requires a minimum fee of \$250.00 as a deposit to cover estimated cost for time and material. This takes into consideration a \$125.00 hourly fee and per page charge. Should the cost exceed the minimum fee, an amended invoice will be presented along with the documents. Fees must be paid in advance of the production and delivery of the requested documents by the party whose attorney issues the subpoena.

All fees for court proceedings, including request for documents and response to subpoenas must be paid in full prior to the court date. If fees are not paid in advance the FRC staff will not be required to appear or to provide any information in response to the issuance and service of a subpoena.
- Fee for rushed records: There will be a fee of 1.5 times the total cost of the records if a subpoena for records is received with less than 48 hours notice.
- Correspondence:
\$125 for correspondence related to client compliance with the supervised parenting time order.
- NSF Returned Checks:
A \$35 minimum fee will be charged for a check returned for nonsufficient funds. The party whose check is returned for NSF will be required to pay all subsequent fees in cash.
- Any time for services not specified above that is expended by FRC staff in response to a request by either of the parenting parties or their attorneys shall be billed to the party making the request at the rate of \$125/hour, prorated in 15 minute increments.

Services may be suspended until any outstanding balances are paid in full.

I have read and understand the terms of this Agreement. The Policies and Procedures have been explained to me and I accept the responsibility to follow the terms defined herein.

He leído y entiendo los términos de este Acuerdo. Las pólizas y procedimientos han sido explicados y acepto la responsabilidad de seguir los términos definidos en este documento.

Signature of Non-Supervised Parent

Date

Signature of Program Director

Date