

The Child Welfare Professional shall ensure visitation between parents and their children, between siblings, and visitation for the child with those that are important connections to the child. Visitation shall be considered a priority in all case types where parental rights are intact.

All visitations shall be documented within the state child welfare information system. **F.S. Chapter 39, F.A.C. 65c, and Operating Procedure** shall be adhered to.

Visitation with Parents

- A. For parents who reside out of state, are incarcerated in facilities that do not permit in-person visitation, or are otherwise unable to participate in face-to-face contact, visitation shall be facilitated through non-face-to-face mechanisms such as, but not limited to, the use of virtual communication platforms.
- B. Encourage and support frequent, meaningful, and ongoing parent-child visitation in alignment with court-ordered visitation and the child's case plan, recognizing that visitation is a critical component of reunification and permanency planning. Visitation shall be as frequent and continuous as possible when safe and appropriate.
- C. Visitation should progress naturally and include activities that reflect everyday environments, allowing parent-child interactions to be observed and evaluated.
- D. The Child Welfare Professional shall actively address and reduce barriers to visitation. Efforts may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Identification and approval of a third party to supervise visitation to include, but not be limited to, the child's caregiver;
 - i. When visitation is supervised by a third party the Child Welfare Professional shall obtain a verbal or written summary of each visitation and document in the state child welfare information system.
 - ii. The summary shall include, at a minimum, date, time, duration, location, clear identification of who was present and observations of the visitation.
 - b. Providing transportation or transportation assistance;
 - c. Scheduling visits at times that accommodate the parent, child, and caregiver;
 - d. Facilitating the parent's involvement in the child's daily life, including appointments, extracurricular activities, and special events.
- E. All visitation activities to include frequency, quality and parent participation shall be regularly assessed.
- F. Ensure that visitation frequency, quality, and parent participation are regularly assessed and documented.
- G. The Lead Agency shall develop and implement a standardized visitation format to be used in their catchment area for documentation purposes.
- H. Ensure that parent engagement and visitation efforts support the development and maintenance of a substantial of a substantial and positive parent-child relationship, which includes frequent and regular contact and meaningful participation in the child's life.

Sibling Visitation

- A. Encourage and support frequent, meaningful, and ongoing sibling visitation when siblings have a pre-existing relationship, are not placed in the same out of home placement and when sibling visitation does not pose a safety threat. All sibling visitation shall be in alignment with court-ordered visitation recognizing that visitation is a critical component for maintaining the sibling bond. Visitation shall be as frequent and continuous as possible when safe and appropriate.

- B. The Child Welfare Professional shall actively address and reduce barriers to visitation. Efforts may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Identification and approval of a third party to supervise visitation to include, but not be limited to, the child's caregiver;
 - i. When visitation is supervised by a third party the Child Welfare Professional shall obtain a verbal or written summary of each visitation and document in the state child welfare information system.
 - ii. The summary shall include, at a minimum, date, time, duration, location, clear identification of who was present, and observations of the visitation.
 - b. Providing transportation or transportation assistance.
 - c. Scheduling visits at times that are conducive to all parties schedules;
- C. All visitation activities to include frequency, quality and sibling participation shall be regularly assessed.
- D. Ensure that visitation frequency, quality, and sibling participation are regularly assessed and documented.
- E. The Lead Agency shall develop and implement a standardized visitation format to be used in their catchment area for documentation purposes.
- F. Ensure that sibling visitation efforts support the development and maintenance of a substantial and positive relationship, which includes frequent and regular contact.
- G. Encourage and support frequent, meaningful, and ongoing visitation between a child and their significant connections when they have a pre-existing relationship and does not pose a safety threat. All visitation shall be in alignment with court-ordered visitation recognizing that visitation is a critical component for a child's well-being. Visitation shall be as frequent and continuous as possible when safe and appropriate.

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