

Alaska Family Contact Protocols

- Developed by an interdisciplinary team.
- Applicable to parental (not sibling) visitation.
- These protocols will be adopted by OCS to help workers decide appropriate level of supervision during visitation.
- Key assumptions underlying this protocol:
 - Visitation can and should serve multiple functions depending on the individual family;
 - Visitation should be encouraged as a way to enhance or maintain the parent-child relationship.

Levels of Supervision

Unsupervised	Intermittent Supervision	Structured Family Time		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A supervisor is not necessary. •May include overnights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A supervisor should be present during a portion of the family contact. 	Low Supervision	Moderate Supervision	High Supervision
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Presence of a designated third party who evaluates and assesses the child-family interaction and/or teaches and helps parents practice parenting skills. •Supervisor allows parents to structure interaction and activities, stepping in when parents need assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Presence of a designated third party who evaluates and assesses the child-family interaction and/or teaches and helps parents practice parenting skills. •Supervisor helps parents structure the interaction and activities according to instructions provided in advance by the social worker, and these instructions are based on case-specific factors or concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The child may not be removed from the presence of a supervisor. •Supervisor's responsibilities include protecting the child's emotional and physical safety, and evaluation and assessment of child-family interaction. •Supervisor strictly enforces rules for child-parent interaction that have been explained in advance by the social worker.

Determining Levels of Supervision

Unsupervised	Intermittent Supervision	Structured Family Time		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reasons for removal are being actively addressed. Parent has demonstrated substantial progress in behaviors and safety threats identified in the case plan that impact the family contact. •This level is appropriate when reunification is expected in the near future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reasons for removal are being actively addressed. Parent is making substantial progress in addressing behaviors and safety threats identified in the case plan that impact the family contact, or the parent and case worker agree on a plan that leaves the child in safe family time. 	Low Supervision	Moderate Supervision	High Supervision
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reasons for removal are being addressed. Parent is demonstrating appropriate progress in addressing behaviors and safety threats identified in the case plan that impact the family contact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reasons for removal have not been addressed. Parent has not yet demonstrated necessary progress in addressing behaviors and safety threats identified in the case plan that impact the family contact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reasons for removal are not being addressed by parent. Parent has made little or no progress in addressing behaviors and safety threats identified in the case plan that impact the family contact.

Resources for Supervision

Unsupervised	Intermittent Supervision	Structured Family Time		
		Low Supervision	Moderate Supervision	High Supervision
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Supervision must be provided by appropriately trained OCS staff or individual designated by OCS. Family contact supervisor has clear plan to observe and enhance parental capacities whenever possible. Family contact encourages parent-driven interaction. •Progress is recorded by family contact supervisor and provided to the worker to evaluate progress toward case plan goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Supervision must be provided by appropriately trained OCS staff or designated community agency representative. Family contact supervisor has clear plan to observe and enhance parental capacities whenever possible. Family contact allows for appropriate parent-driven interaction. •Progress is recorded by family contact supervisor and provided to the worker to evaluate progress toward case plan goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Supervision must be provided by the case worker or appropriately trained OCS staff. Clinical supervision by a designated community agency or appropriately trained OCS staff may be necessary in cases of sexual or physical abuse or violence between siblings. •Progress is recorded by family contract supervisor and provided to the worker to evaluate progress toward case plan goals.