

## FAQs ABOUT VISITATION PLANS AND CHILD SUPPORT IN PROTECTIVE ORDERS

### 1. Why do I need a visitation plan?

Regular schedules help kids and parents because everybody feels better knowing what is coming next. Also, if the kids are with the Petitioner, the Respondent risks getting arrested for dropping by to see the kids if(s)he does not have permission in the order.

### 2. What kind of information should be in a plan?

- ✓ the dates and times the kids will be with the other parent
- ✓ who will drive the kids to the visitation
- ✓ the place where the kids will be picked up by the other parent
- ✓ restrictions on the visitation because of safety concerns
- ✓ names of people willing to act as 3<sup>rd</sup> parties to help so the parents can avoid having a blow-up
- ✓ if the visitation should be supervised
- ✓ if the parents should be able to talk to each other about the kids
- ✓ if the non-custodial parent can have contact with the kids outside of the scheduled visitation

### 3. What should I think about in making the visitation plan?

What matters most is what is best for your kids. But you also need to think about what works for you and the other parent. Figure out how visits can happen safely for everyone. If you are worried about alcohol or drug use, or violence towards the children, think of what restrictions on the visitation could keep them safe. Remember that kids need stability, consistency, safety, food and love.

### 4. What kind of schedule might work?

There is no required or preferred schedule -- choose what works for everyone involved. Think about your kids' school or daycare schedule, both parents' work schedules, and the realities of each parent's living situation. The kids need to be able to get to school on time and hopefully keep doing special activities. **BE REALISTIC - ask for only what you can reasonably manage!**

### 5. OK, I've thought up a schedule, what else do I need to do?

Organize your ideas by using the [Visitation Plan & Child Support Worksheet](#) ([Word](#) | [PDF](#)).

*Remember, this is a process and if you and the other side have different ideas about a plan, you will probably leave court with an order that combines part of your plan and part of the other parent's plan.*

### 6. Can I get child support with a protective order?

Yes, but you must ask for it.