

SUPERVISED VISITATION

F A M I L Y T I E S

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*The Ninth Judicial Circuit Court
of Florida in and for Orange County
Office of the Court Administrator*

FAMILY TIES
425 North Orange Avenue, Suite 510
Orlando, Florida 32801
(407) 836-0426

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What is Supervised Visitation?

Supervised Visitation is a safe, hassle-free two-hour visit between a non-custodial parent and his/her child(ren) under the supervision of a compassionate, trained adult who protects the child(ren) from any form of harm, threat or manipulation.

WHO NEEDS SUPERVISED VISITATION?

- **Children** denied access to one of their parents.
- **Children** who must be safe.
- **Parents** denied access to their child(ren).
- **Parents** who fear for the safety of their child(ren) in the presence of the other parent.
- **Attorneys** looking for a safe, acceptable method of visitation.
- **The Court** which needs to enforce statutes mandating children's continued relationships with both parents, while ensuring the safety and well-being of the child(ren).

HOW SUPERVISED VISITATION WORKS:

Visits are scheduled for two hours every other weekend on either Saturday mornings or Sunday afternoons. Each parent commits to cooperate with the program of supervision.

For example...

- parent brings child(ren) promptly for each visit
- parental visitation is planned, positive and safe
- parents don't criticize each other in front of the child(ren)

The purpose of Supervised Visitation is to provide children a chance to be with mom or dad in a safe, secure and comfortable environment.

Participation is by court order only.

You can help:

- comply with all rules and court orders to make everything go smoothly
- cancel appointments in a timely manner if necessary.

ABOUT THE VISITATION SUPERVISOR:

The Visitation Supervisors (Observers) are people who realize that this is a difficult situation for each person involved. All have been trained and are continually learning more about making each visit a healthy and positive experience for the children.

The Observer will never leave the child(ren) alone during the visitation - always keeping each child within sight and/or sound as ordered by the Court. At least one Deputy Sheriff is always present when Family Ties is in operation.

WHAT IS THE COST?

The cost of supervised visitation is set by the judge. Costs will be assessed against one or both parents using child support guidelines. Costs could be waived in some cases.

WHERE IS VISITATION HELD?

Visitations take place at Cherokee School near downtown Orlando. A map is available and will be mailed to both parents.

SUPERVISED VISITATION KEEPS A CHILD SAFE WHEN:

Sexual, physical or emotional abuse is alleged or documented between an adult family member and child.

Alcohol and drug abuse make visits potentially dangerous for the child.

Fear keeps a child from feeling safe with a non-custodial parent especially if based upon previous experiences.

Environment in non-custodial parent's home is not conducive to safe or positive interaction.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: (407) 836-0426

Family Ties

Orange County Courthouse
425 North Orange Avenue, Suite 510
Orlando, Florida 32801

Sponsored by:

*Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida
Orange County Board of County Commissioners
Orange County School Board
Orange County Sheriff's Office*

NOTE: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in **Supervised Visitation**, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration at 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite 2130, Orlando, Florida 32801, Telephone: (407)836-2050 for more information and to ensure that reasonable accommodations are available. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771.