

Family Contact

When you are asked to supervise...

Office Of Children Services

Lancy Mao

OCS Policy: Key points

- ▶ After removal, the department will make every effort to ensure that an in person contact is made within five days following the removal from the home.
- ▶ When a child has been removed from the parental home, the department should encourage frequent, regular and reasonable contact between the child and the child's parent or guardian and family members
 - Having other resources/options allows family more frequent contacts.
- ▶ When appropriate, contacts should be held in the least restrictive, least intrusive environment possible.

Case worker Role

- OCS is obligated by law to provide family contacts for families and keeping safety in mind for all parties.
- Develop a Family Contact Plan with all parties involved this includes placements, especially if placements are asked to supervised.
- Family Contact Plan document will be provide with information of the responsibilities and expectations of all parties during the family contact.
- OCS is not able to solely deny contacts. Legal parties needs to be involved and ultimately the judge makes this decision.
- OCS worker will navigate issues/concerns that may arise surrounding family contact and those situations will be looked at with the necessary parties. Your feedback and support is greatly valued.

Foster Family Role

- Has been provided with the Family Contact Plan; if there are any questions or clarification needed is will be addressed with caseworker.
- Encourage family contact and support child before and after with transitions as needed.
- Provide support and role-model for the bio-parents as needed.
- Contact will occur in the environment that is safest and most comfortable.
- Provide documentation of behavior before, during and after contact to the caseworker and what feedback you can offer to support the child(ren).
- If issues arises surrounding the contact, reach out to the caseworker so it can get addressed.

Family Contact Plan

Needs to address:

- Frequency
- Length of time
- Location
- Supervision level and why that level is needed
 - Based on facts and behaviors that may impact actual family contact
- Safety concerns
- Participants
- Suggested activities

NOTE: content in FC plans may vary depending on caseworkers, OCS is aware that training in this area is in much need and are working towards it.

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
Office of Children's Services

Family Contact Plan

Case Name: Case Number: Type of Plan: Effective Start Date:

Family Contact Participants:

Details of Contacts:

Supervised By:

Details of Contacts:

Supervised By:

Supervision Level:

Reason for Supervision Level:

Goal(s) of Family Contacts:

Suggested Activities:

Special Instructions:

Emergencies and Special Situations: In the event of an emergency such as serious injury or illness, first call 911, then contact [Primary Caseworker Name] at [Primary Caseworker Phone #] as soon as possible.

For non-emergencies, the Family Contact Supervisor or parent may contact the person(s) listed below in the event of [user entered text].

Name: [user entered text]	Phone: [user entered text]
Name: [user entered text]	Phone: [user entered text]

Page 1 of 2

Levels of supervision

<u>Unsupervised</u>	<u>Intermittent</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>High</u>
<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 contact; portion will depend on the needs of the family. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of a designated third party who evaluates and assess 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 assess the child-family interaction and/or teaches and helps parents practice parenting skills • Supervisor helps parents structure the interaction and activities according to the instruction 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.

Problem solving Family contact issues/topics

(I will mention that I might now be able to answer all and if they could think of ones that others may be dealing with.)

