

GEAUGA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
Supervised Visitation Rules
TIMOTHY J. GRENDALL, JUDGE
Probate / Juvenile Division

You have been court ordered to have supervised visitation. The purpose of supervised visitation is to ensure that parents have an opportunity to maintain contact with their children in a structured environment that is both safe and comfortable for the child. Children do best when they have reliable, ongoing relationships with both parents. The most recent judgment entry from your case will explain the details of your specific visitation.

Your case will be assigned to a visitation supervisor. The visitation supervisor will contact you to arrange visitation. You must respond to the visitation supervisor within twenty-four (24) hours to ensure visits are scheduled and conducted.

The role of the visitation supervisor is:

- To ensure the safety of the children at all times.
 - The visitation supervisor will intervene if there is a safety concern or a violation of the court order. Directives from the visitation supervisor must be followed at all times.
- To document events which occur in the visit, which will be provided and filed with the Court.
- To ensure all court orders are followed.
- The visitation supervisor can end the visit at any time and this directive must be followed immediately.

The following are the rules of supervised visitation:

- You are not permitted to discuss the case with the children in any manner.
 - If your children have questions about the case, they should be directed to speak with the JFS Case Worker or CASA/GAL.
- You are not permitted to make changes to or cancel the visitation without the Court's approval. Any requests for changes should be submitted to the Court Case Manager assigned to your case. Changes are made at the Court's discretion and are not guaranteed.
 - Visitation supervisors do not have authority to make changes or cancel visits without the approval of the Court.
- You are not allowed to bring guests to the visit.
 - You are not permitted to make phone calls during the visit for the child to speak with others.
- You must be on time to all visits.
 - This includes having the children prepared prior to the start and end time to ensure timely drop offs and pick ups.
- Both parents/guardians must make every effort to foster a positive relationship with the other parent. Child should be encouraged to visit and negative/derogatory remarks are prohibited.
 - Watch your non-verbal language. Sometimes an expression can speak volumes about your view of the other parent or visits.
- Keep your children with you in your visiting area at all times. You are responsible for watching and disciplining the children in an appropriate manner.
- You are responsible for coming prepared with items and activities appropriate to your child's developmental level to enhance your visitation with your child.
- You are responsible for bringing necessary items for your child's well-being and health. (i.e. diapers, snacks, formula, etc.)

- You must follow the rules and procedures of the location at which your visit is conducted.
- All conversations and interactions must be conducted in a manner in which the visitation supervisor can clearly see and hear.
- If there is a suspicion that you are under the influence of a substance, the visitation supervisor will end/cancel the visit.
- Focus on the children. Supervised visitation is not the time to ask about the other parent, exchange information, etc. This is your time with your children.
- It is not the role of either parent to dictate or control what occurs during visitation.

The goals of a successful visit are:

- Improved parenting skills for the non-custodial parent.
- Improved parent-child relationship.
- A conflict-free experience for everyone.
- A safe and secure setting where the child and parent visit under the guidance of an appropriate supervisor.
- The child feels emotionally and physically safe during the visit.
- Improved level of trust between the custodial and non-custodial parent.
- Reduced conflict and hostility between parents/guardians.
- Increased time between the child and non-custodial parent.
- To make progress toward unsupervised visitation.

It is possible that supervised visitation will be terminated, shortened or rules changed if it is not going well.