

Instructions for Visitation Under Special Circumstances

Circumstance	Family Centered Team Response in FVP
Incarcerated Parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Team shall carefully consider what visitation/contact is appropriate.• Visitation must be facilitated if the facility at which the parent is placed is a reasonable distance from the child's residence, unless such contact would be detrimental to the child.• If face-to-face visits are not feasible or are otherwise inappropriate, the Team shall consider phone calls and/or other communicative means.• The CSW must investigate what the particular facility requires to secure permission for the child to visit, who can accompany the child to visits, and how frequently the child is allowed to visit the parent. The CSW should also inquire as to the facility's policies regarding dress code, gifts and food. Such information shall be brought to the Team. The CSW should also investigate programs in which the parent can remain with the child.• The CSW must explain to the child what he or she should expect during the visit to the facility.• At all times, the Team shall examine the child's feelings in visiting the parent in jail or prison.• The CSW and caregiver shall prepare the child to comply with facility regulations.
Chemical Treatment Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Team shall assess the child's feelings about visiting the parent in such an institution.• The CSW shall investigate the facility's visitation policies in order to assist the Team in structuring the FVP. The CSW shall investigate programs where the child can be with the parent during the treatment.
Mental Health Placement or Hospitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In determining whether or not visitation is appropriate when the parent is placed in a mental health facility, the Team shall consider the child's desires and needs, the parent's desires and needs, the parent's level of functioning, the specific mental disorder being treated, and the recommendation of the parent's therapist.• Where visitation is appropriate, the CSW shall investigate the facility's visitation policies in order to assist the Team in structuring the FVP.
Domestic Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In cases of violent confrontation between parents, the Team should not schedule visits with both parents together until an intervention or treatment specialist determines that such visits do not pose a threat to any family member.• Safety should be the Team's paramount concern in regard to the child and the domestic violence victim, especially upon initial contact.• Confidentiality regarding residences and contact information should be maintained where a danger is posed by a parent.• The FVP must be consistent with any criminal court orders. Also, the Team shall abide by any restraining orders placed on a family member in developing the FVP.• The Team can arrange for different visiting schedules for both parents and safe drop-off/pick-up locations.• A safety plan should be in place should a batterer who is excluded from family visits unexpectedly appears at visitation.