



DIVISION OF  
**FAMILY AND  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS**

# SUPPORTIVE VISITATION SERVICES (SVS)



## OVERVIEW:

The SVS model provides therapeutic and supportive visitation facilitated by a mental health professional or a specially trained specialist to families that have experienced separation as a safety intervention as a result of child maltreatment. Designed as a continuum of care, the SVS model offers ongoing support, including up to six months of aftercare services to assist families following the reunification of the child.

## TARGET POPULATION:

The primary recipients of SVS program services are families involved with DCP&P whose children, from birth up to age 17, are in out-of-home placements. These families are working toward goals such as reunification, Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG), or adoption.

## COMPONENTS OF EVERY VISIT:

- **PRE-VISIT PREP** - Preparation time before a visit with parents to discuss anticipation of any behavioral or emotional challenges that could arise. Preparation may occur on the phone or during transportation and shall include input from the parent, and ideally the child, about the activities planned, supplies to bring to the visit, and how they will spend their quality family time together.
- **THE VISIT** - This stage consists of family time.
- **POST-VISIT DEBRIEF** - An exchange of reflections on the visit and strength-based feedback from the visitation specialist. Debriefs shall begin with engaging the parent/caregiver/child(ren) to elicit their thoughts about how the visit went, including self-reflection's on the visit. Solution focused questions can also be used to engage the parent/caregiver in planning for strategies to address visitation challenges.

## VISIT LOCATIONS:

Visit location is based on assessment, DCF Parent-Child Visitation Planning Tool, and family's request. Visitation location shall be in the least restrictive setting possible. Visits shall only occur in the agency's office, or the family's DCP&P office when visitation safety and/or risk factors exist and can't otherwise be safely mitigated.

## VISIT LOCATIONS BY LEVEL OF RESTRICTIVENESS:

- **LEAST RESTRICTIVE** - Family Home, Kin, or Resource Parent's Home
- **COMMUNITY SETTINGS** - Park, Library, etc.
- **MOST RESTRICTIVE** - The agency's office, or the family's DCP&P office

## VISITATION CONTINUUM:

- **THERAPEUTIC VISITATION** - For families needing significant clinical interventions for behavioral, developmental, relational, or safety issues. Led by Therapeutic Visitation Specialists, visits focus on parent-child attachment, emotional regulation, parent competency, and use trauma-informed methods.
- **SUPPORTIVE VISITATION** - Ideal for families needing minimal clinical support, yet benefiting from coaching, mentoring, and skill development by a trained professional. Led by the Supportive Visitation Specialist, these visits enhance parental skills through goal setting, modeling, mentoring, reinforcement, and feedback.
- **SUPERVISED VISITATION** - Suitable for families needing support for safe visits without major intervention. Visits are led by a relative, family friend, or the contracted agency's Visitation Aide to reinforce clinical gains. The contracted agency works with DCP&P to confirm visit supervisors, oversee visits, and attends one visit monthly to ensure family safety.
- **UNSUPERVISED VISITATION** - Unsupervised visits. The contracted agency shall provide oversight and monitoring and attend at least one visit monthly to ensure families are safe and stable.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR REFERRAL:

- Completed SVS Referral Form
- DCF Parent-Child Visitation Planning Tool
- DCP&P Case Plan/ Family Summary and other supporting documents, if applicable (i.e., verified complaint for custody, most recent court orders, prior mental health evaluations etc.)

COUNTIES	SERVICE PROVIDER
Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May	Acenda, Inc
Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem	Center for Family Services, Inc (CFS)
Camden	Center for Family Services, Inc (CFS)
Monmouth, Ocean	YMCA of Greater Monmouth County
Hunterdon, Mercer, Somerset, Warren	The Children Home Society of NJ (CHS)
Middlesex, Union	Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen (CCDOM)
Essex	Family Connections Inc
Morris, Sussex, Passaic	Center for Evaluations and Counseling, Inc
Bergen, Hudson	Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark (CCDON)

**THIS IS A PROGRAM BEING DESIGNED AND MANAGED BY THE  
DIVISION OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, OFFICE OF  
FAMILY PRESERVATION & REUNIFICATION.**



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES