

E.S.V

ENHANCED SUPPLEMENTAL VISITATION

Dear Foster Parents,

Enhanced and Supplemental Visitation is a form of visitation that is less traditional in nature than what we have come to know as visitation. Often times, the quantity of visitation take precedence over the quality of visitation. As caseworkers, it is important to always be considering alternative forms of visitation for children, while considering safety threats and vulnerability of the child(ren).

Enhanced and Supplemental Visitation would typically take place outside of DHS and not only allow the children to see their parents and relatives more frequently, but also encourage parents and relatives to remain involved in the children's lives outside of their weekly allotted visitation time. Examples of Enhanced and Supplemental visitation include, but are certainly not limited to: Participating in medical appointments, school activities, attending the child's sporting events, holiday celebrations, email contact, sending journals back and forth, and phone contact on a regular basis.

I have worked with a number of you and I know that we are already employing many of these "non-traditional" visitation styles. It is our hope that parents would approach their Child Welfare case with an immense sense of urgency and determination, but I feel that often times the guilt, embarrassment and seemingly never ending number of services becomes overwhelming and intimidating. In my experience, the implementation of E.S.V has allowed parents to remain far more connected to the process and to their children, and who knows, may have encouraged parents to take the necessary steps and reach the goals set forth by the courts and DHS.

It is our hope that E.S.V will be brought up more in discussion between you and our caseworkers in the coming months and that we can continue to employ various examples of E.S.V into our Child Welfare cases. If you have any suggestions or comments about this, please call your caseworker.

[Please take some time to read some Policy below regarding E.S.V...](#)

From the Child Welfare Procedure Manual chapter 4, section 26:

Enhanced Visitation should occur in addition to a regular visitation plan. The type of enhanced visitation should match safety threats and vulnerability of the child. Types of enhanced supervision include:

- a. Hands-on visitation class.
- b. Email, phone, and journals.
- c. Parent participating in doctor appointments, school activities, holiday celebrations, etc.

From policy Visits & Other Types of Child & Family Contact I-E.3.5 413-070-0800

(h) In developing an Ongoing Visit & Contact Plan, the caseworker must (D) Arrange additional contact such as telephone calls, e-mail, and letters, and other activities the family and child or young adult may do together that support the ongoing safety plan, such as attendance by parents or guardians at doctor appointments, school events, and church.

Thank you all for everything you do for the children of Marion County and beyond. We look forward to developing a discussion around, implementing, and expanding E.S.V with you all.

Sincerely,

Tom Clark
Marion County Child Welfare