

# Family Violence: Supervised Visitation

This packet is designed to provide up-to-date articles and information to advocates, attorneys, judges, individuals, and supervised visitation providers on supervised visitation and safe exchange in the context of family violence. The views expressed in the various articles reflect the opinions of the authors and are not necessarily the opinions, policies, or positions of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), unless clearly indicated. This packet was prepared by the staff of the Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody operated by the Family Violence Department of the NCJFCJ. If you would like further information, please contact the Resource Center at NCJFCJ, P.O. Box 8970, Reno, Nevada, 89507, (800) 52-PEACE or (800) 527-3223.

The following is a list of the articles contained in this packet and a brief summary description of the contents of each article. To provide guidance for readers, the articles are divided by the most suited audience. However, each article might provide useful information to any reader.

Packet contents include:

## **INDIVIDUALS:**

**1) Lundy Bancroft, *The Parenting of Men Who Batter*, 39 COURT REVIEW 44 (2002).**

This article considers the parenting characteristics commonly observed in batterers and the possible implications of these characteristics for children's emotional and physical well-being, their relationships with their mothers and siblings, and the development of their belief systems.

**2) NCJFCJ, Sections 405 and 406 of the MODEL CODE ON DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (1994).**

These are sections of the Model Code that specifically address supervised visitation and form the foundation for the Family Violence Department's work in the area of supervised visitation and safe exchange.

**3) Jill Davies, on behalf of the Family Violence Prevention Fund, SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAMS: INFORMATION FOR MOTHERS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED ABUSE (2007).**

This Guide is for mothers who have experienced abuse and whose children are in supervised visitation programs. It gives mothers with basic information about how supervised visitation programs work, how to prepare for supervised visitation, and how mothers can prepare their children for the experience.

**4) Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL, <http://www.duluth-model.org>.**

This resource provides an illustrative list of the tactics batterer often use to establish and maintain power and control over their partners and their children.

## THE JUDICIARY AND ATTORNEYS:

- 5) **Family Violence Prevention Fund, *Checklist: Considerations in Visitation Decisions*, section of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN: RESOLVING CUSTODY AND VISITATION DISPUTES (1997).**

This document provides a succinct checklist and examples for courts making custody decisions in cases of domestic violence.

- 6) **Samantha Moore & Kathryn Ford, on behalf of the Center for Court Innovation, *Supervised Visitation: What Courts Should Know When Working with Supervised Visitation Programs* (2006).**

This paper highlights a number of practices used by supervised visitation programs and the courts, and is intended for judges, court administrators and their community partners in an effort to reduce the risk of violence for survivors and their children.

- 7) **National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence, FORGING A COLLABORATION BETWEEN COURTS AND SUPERVISED VISITATION CENTERS, training materials (1999).**

The document addresses two key questions: (1) What role does the supervised visitation center have in addressing domestic abuse when the court refers a case? and (2) How can the court and other collaborative partners facilitate the centers fulfillment of this role?

- 8) **Julie Field, *Visitation in Cases Marked By Violence: Judicial Actions that Can Help Keep Children and Victims Safe*, 35 COURT REVIEW 3 (1998).**

This article explores the implications of a Seattle case that made clear that the worst can happen even when some precautions are taken, and outlines the steps judges can take to maximize the safety of children and victims of domestic violence.

- 9) **Peter G. Jaffe et. al., *Parenting Arrangements After Domestic Violence: Safety as a Priority in Judging Children's Best Interest*, 6 JOURNAL OF THE CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN, AND THE COURTS 81 (2005).**

This article gives both the clinical and judicial perspectives on this issue and specifically discusses supervised visitation and exchanges. The purpose of this article is to discuss some of the controversies surrounding parent-child access and outline practical guidelines.

- 10) **Maureen Sheeran & Scott Hampton, *Supervised Visitation in Cases of Domestic Violence*, 50 Juvenile and Family Court Journal 2 (1999).**

This article looks at the risk perpetrators of domestic violence pose to children, specifically after separation. It looks at the unique challenges domestic violence presents in the context of parent-child visitation and how states are moving to address those problems.

- 11) **Patricia Van Horn & Betsy Macalister Groves, *Children Exposed to Domestic Violence: Making Trauma-Informed Custody and Visitation Decisions*, 57 Juvenile and Family Court Journal 51(2006).**

This article explores the risks for young children and the challenges for courts that emerge when parents who are victims or perpetrators of intimate partner violence seek court decisions on child visitation or custody matters. The authors focus particularly on children age five and younger, a group that is disproportionately represented in families affected by intimate partner violence, and especially vulnerable to its traumatic impact.

## ADVOCATES AND SUPERVISED VISITATION AND SAFE EXCHANGE PROVIDERS:

- 12) **Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF SAFE HAVENS: SUPERVISED VISITATION AND SAFE EXCHANGE GRANT PROGRAM (2007).**  
The Guiding Principles of the Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program are designed to guide the development and administration of Supervised Visitation Program centers with an eye toward addressing the needs of child(ren) and adult victims of domestic violence in visitation and exchange settings.
- 13) **Juan Carlos Aréan, on behalf of the Family Violence Prevention Fund, FATHERING AFTER VIOLENCE: WORKING WITH ABUSIVE FATHERS IN SUPERVISED VISITATION (2007).**  
This guide is intended to assist the grantees of the Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program that want to enhance the safety and well-being of women and children by working more deliberately with abusive fathers who use the centers to visit their children.
- 14) **Derrick Gordon & Ona Foster, on behalf of the Family Violence Prevention Fund, BEYOND OBSERVATIONS: CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADVANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PRACTICE IN SUPERVISED VISITATION (2007).**  
This document presents considerations for expanded practice in the Supervised Visitation Grant Program and describes interventions that go beyond observation in the supervised visitation setting. It explores the continuum of services provided and presents the perspectives of consumers and staff regarding their desires and needs from the supervised visitation experience.
- 15) **Lauren Litton & Oliver Williams, on behalf of the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community, EXPLORING SUPERVISED VISITATION AND EXCHANGE SERVICES IN NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES (2006).**  
This report reflects the first step in an opportunity to critically think about how supervised visitation and safe exchange can be crafted and implemented by tribal communities in a manner that offers safety, respect, healing, health, and serenity.
- 16) **Oliver Williams, on behalf of the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community, CONCEPTS IN CREATING CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE SERVICES FOR SUPERVISED VISITATION CENTERS (2007).**  
This report provides an overview of specific priorities and insights about how to enrich service delivery directed at culturally diverse populations. It also reports on how help is defined from the point of view of women and men from diverse communities who utilize, or who could potentially utilize, visitation centers, as well as from professionals and other stakeholders involved in the field of supervised visitation and domestic violence.
- 17) **NCJFCJ, *Bibliography on Supervised Visitation***  
This bibliography provides additional reading materials and resources on the issues explored in this packet.