



Supporting Family Time

Updated January 2022

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1. Purpose

Supervised family time will, wherever possible, be undertaken by the Supporting Family Time Team.

2. Expectations

The child's social worker is expected to observe contact at least once a month. When a child is the subject of legal proceedings the court will expect the social worker to be able to report to the court with first-hand information.

3. Referral Process.

A referral can be made to the Supporting Family Time Team via the supervised contact referral form on liquid logic. The Supporting Family Time Team require a minimum of 24 hours to set up new family time sessions however, we do not provide a specific service to children and young people with a disability. Any referral will be considered subject to an assessment of the needs of the child and balanced against an assessment of risk and the service we are able to provide.

4. Allocation

As far as possible, the same family time supervisors should be used to supervise for a particular child. This ensures less disruption for the child and birth family. It may also support the child to develop trust and confidence in the security of the arrangements.

Family time supervisors should be appropriately trained and be confident in managing the contact.

Where the family time supervisor is not the social worker, the social worker must ensure the supervisor is fully briefed on the circumstances of the individual child and understands what the issues are and the level of supervision required. The social worker should also ensure the supervisor is notified of any changes to these circumstances and the referral form on liquid logic is updated with any changes to circumstances and risk assessments are reviewed to reflect this.

If the family time takes place at a carer's home it must be clear as to whether they are facilitating or supervising the family time. Facilitating is simply providing the venue. Supervising implies a much more active monitoring role. Where the carer is supervising family time it must be clear that the carer has sufficient training and experience, and is well supported.

Some contacts may be observed by expert witnesses and CAFCASS officers.