

## What is supervised visitation?

Sometimes families need safe, neutral settings where the contact between a child (or children) and an adult, usually a parent, can be monitored.

Supervised visitation programs are designed to offer a safe, neutral setting in which children can meet with adults while being observed by personnel able to protect the rights of the child. The goal of supervised visitation is to help families interact in a safe, non-threatening, appropriate manner.

## What is the Franklin County Children's Visitation Program?

The FCCVP offers a child-friendly atmosphere for families who need an alternative to unsupervised visits between children and their non-custodial parents.

The FCCVP operates in accordance with the National Guidelines for Supervised Visitation and honors the Bill of Rights for Children. Please be aware that this program reserves the right to refuse services to any individual who does not meet program criteria or is unable to follow the program guidelines.

## YOU ARE NOT ALONE. HELP IS AVAILABLE.

Call 413-772-0871 x119 for information about the Franklin County Children's Visitation Center.

Every effort will be made to provide interpretation services for participants who do not speak English or Spanish. This includes direct access to trained interpreters to assist the deaf or hard of hearing population.

NELCWIT's Franklin County Children's Visitation Program (FCCVP) does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.

The Franklin County Children's Visitation center is funded by a contract with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. NELCWIT is funded by contracts with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Department of Children and Families, Executive Office of Public Safety, and Office of Victim Assistance; by the United Way of Franklin County; by private foundations, and by donations from supporters.



# FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILDREN'S VISITATION PROGRAM

A program of the  
**NEW ENGLAND LEARNING  
CENTER FOR WOMEN IN  
TRANSITION**

Offering supervised visitation  
for children who have experienced  
domestic violence



413-772-0871 x119  
fccvp@nelcwit.org  
www.nelcwit.org

# The goal of the Franklin County Children's Visitation Program is to offer children the opportunity to build relationships with their non-custodial parents in a safe, child-friendly, environment.

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## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Supervised visits can be helpful for children who have a non-custodial parent that has been involved in:

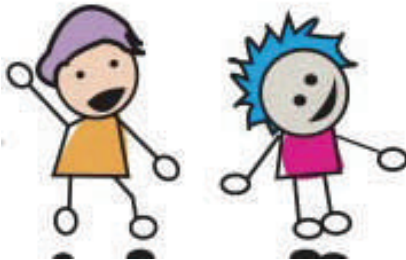
- ◆ Domestic Violence
- ◆ Sexual Violence
- ◆ Substance Abuse

Most families who are involved in the visitation program are referred by the Department of Children and Families or the courts. If you believe that your child would benefit from supervised visits, but you do not have a referral, call the FCCVP at 413-772-0871 x119 for more information.

## GETTING STARTED

Call 413-772-0871 x119 to set up an intake with the FCCVP.

A NELCWIT staff member will return your call within 48 hours to schedule your intake appointment. During the intake, you will learn more about the program rules and guidelines.



## ORIENTATION

Custodial and visiting parents will learn about program rules and guidelines during their separate interviews. They will also be informed about our conduct and behavior expectations for adult participants and our policies and procedures. They will have the opportunity to discuss safety and prior issues in visitation and to learn about the program policies and procedures.

Custodial parents will receive suggestions for preparing their children for visitation, including their own orientation appointments, when children can meet the staff, see the site, and ask questions.

## WHAT ARE THE VISITS LIKE?

Visiting parents may use the time to talk and play with their children using toys, games, art supplies, and books provided by the program. Child-friendly indoor and outdoor spaces are available for the visits.

All visits will be observed by visitation monitors, who may share ideas about how to use the visitation time and offer support to both adult visitors and children. If the monitors have concerns



regarding unsafe behaviors during the visit, they may intervene, offering ideas about parenting techniques and appropriate interaction. Under some circumstances, they may also terminate a visit.

In many cases the level or type of visitation services that families receive are determined by a court order or by the referral source, or agreed upon by both parties and the FCCVP.

## WHAT ABOUT SAFETY?

Safety is a priority for the FCCVP. Our site and program were planned to ensure safety for all participants. The type and level of security/staffing needed for each family will be determined during the intake process and re-assessed on an ongoing basis.

Please let us know about any concerns you have about safety during your participation with the FCCVP.