# Family Contact

When you are asked to supervise...

### Office Of Children Services

Lancy Mao

## OCS Policy: Key points

- After removal, the department will make every effort to ensure that an in person contact is made within five days following the removal from the home.
- When a child has been removed from the parental home, the department should encourage frequent, regular and reasonable contact between the child and the child's parent or guardian and family members
  - Having other resources/options allows family more frequent contacts.
- When appropriate, contacts should be held in the least restrictive, least intrusive environment possible.

### Case worker Role

- OCS is obligated by law to provide family contacts for families and keeping safety in mind for all parties.
- Develop a Family Contact Plan with all parties involved this includes placements, especially if placements are asked to supervised.
- Family Contact Plan document will be provide with information of the responsibilities and expectations of all parties during the family contact.
- OCS is not able to solely deny contacts. Legal parties needs to be involved and ultimately the judge makes this decision.
- OCS worker will navigate issues/concerns that may arise surrounding family contact and those situations will be looked at with the necessary parties. Your feedback and support is greatly valued.

### Foster Family Role

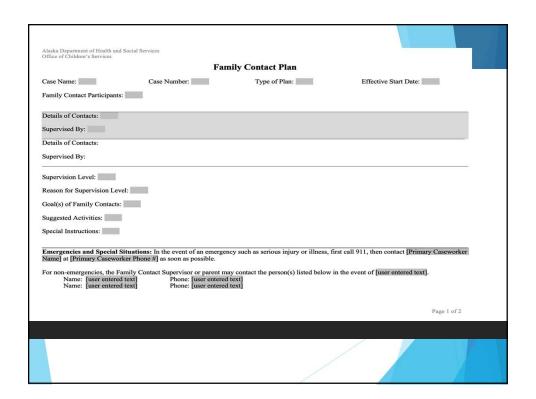
- Has been provided with the Family Contact Plan; if there are any questions or clarification needed is will be addressed with caseworker.
- Encourage family contact and support child before and after with transitions as needed.
- Provide support and role-model for the bio-parents as needed.
- Contact will occur in the environment that is safest and most comfortable.
- Provide documentation of behavior before, during and after contact to the caseworker and what feedback you can offer to support the child(ren).
- If issues arises surrounding the contact, reach out to the caseworker so it can get addressed.

## Family Contact Plan

### Needs to address:

- Frequency
- · Length of time
- Location
- · Supervision level and why that level is needed
  - Based on facts and behaviors that may impact actual family contact
- · Safety concerns
- Participants
- · Suggested activities

NOTE: content in FC plans may vary depending on caseworkers, OCS is aware that training in this area is in much need and are working towards it.



### Levels of supervision

Low

Presence of a  $\, \cdot \,$ 

#### Unsupervised

A supervisor is •

not necessary.

May include

overnights.

#### Intermittent

#### A supervisor should be

family.

#### present during a portion of the contact; portion will depend on the needs of the

#### designated third party who evaluates and assess the child-family interaction and/or teaches and helps parents practice

Supervisor allows parents to structure interactionand activities, stepping in when parents

assistance

need

parenting

skills

### **Moderate**

#### Presence of a designated third party who evaluates and assess the childfamily interaction and/or teaches

- and helps parents practice parenting skills Supervisor helps
- parents structure the interaction and activities according to the. instruction provided in advance by the  $social\ worker$  , and these instructions are based on casespecific factors

or concerns

#### High

- The child may not be removed from the presence of a supervisor.
- Supervisor's responsibilities include protecting the child's emotional and physical safety, and evaluation and assessment of child-family interaction.
- Supervisor strictly enforces rules for childparent interaction that have been explained in advance by the social worker.

### Problem solving Family contact issues/topics

(I will mention that I might now be able to answer all and if they could think of ones that others may be dealing with.)

