

IN THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA

IN RE: SUPERVISED VISITATION)
PROGRAMS) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
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The Supreme Court of Florida entered an Administrative Order dated November 18, 1999 which adopted minimum standards for supervised visitation centers and the programs associated with such centers. The administrative order signed by then Chief Justice Major Harding is attached to this order and made a part hereof.

Pursuant to the mandate of the Florida Supreme Court, it is incumbent upon this court to enter into agreements with supervised visitation centers that are willing to comply with the minimum standards adopted by the Family Court Steering Committee as referenced in the Supreme Court's administrative order.

In accordance with the Supreme Court's order, and in recognition of the fact that supervised visitations programs are an essential element of the Model Family Court and an important resource to family law judges, it is

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED as follows:

1. Any supervised visitation program operating in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit that wishes to receive cases pursuant to a referral via court order, shall comply with the standards adopted by the Supreme Court through the administrative order referenced above.
2. Prior to accepting cases pursuant to any court order, the visitation programs shall enter into an agreement with the Chief Judge of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Court as provided by the administrative order from the Supreme Court referenced above.
3. Judges who refer cases to any supervised visitation program shall utilize only the services of those programs that have entered into an agreement pursuant to this order.

4. The Office of the Court Administrator shall maintain a list of supervised visitation programs in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit that comply with the terms of this order. This list shall be updated periodically and circulated to any interested parties.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, at Naples, Collier County, Florida

this 26th day of August, 2003.

Hugh D. Hayes
Hugh D. Hayes
Chief Judge

History. - New.

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF LEE
FILED FOR RECORD
This 28 Day of Aug 2003 Record in Circuit Court Minute
Book 47 Page _____ and Record Verified.
CHARLIE GREEN By Charlie Green
Clerk Circuit Court Deputy Clerk

I certify this document to be
a true and correct copy of the
original on file in my office,
Charlie Green, Clerk Circuit
Court, Lee County, Florida
Dated: 8-28-03
By Charlie Green
Deputy Clerk

Supreme Court of Florida

IN RE: SUPERVISED VISITATION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

By opinion and administrative order, the Court previously directed the Family Court Steering Committee (Steering Committee) to develop recommendations on the characteristics of a model family court, including organization, policy, procedures, staffing, resources, and linkages to community-based programs and services that may be of assistance to families in litigation.

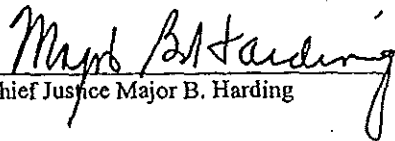
Supervised visitation programs are one element of a model family court and an important resource for the family court judge. These programs help to: provide a safe environment for a child to visit with a non-custodial parent; facilitate family cooperation; support the family's independence from the court system; and may provide crucial information to the judge. These programs have developed on an informal basis and do not operate under any uniform standards or guidelines. No entity is responsible for providing oversight of the programs that operate outside of the court system.

The Steering Committee resolved that supervised visitation centers, as a resource available to the court, should be held to minimum operational standards and that courts would be remiss in not considering the standards, resources and operations of such centers prior to ordering parties to use them. Subsequently the Steering Committee developed proposed standards that were circulated to the chief judges for comment and were submitted to this Court for consideration.


The standards, as submitted to the Court, provided for standards of operation and for certification of the programs by the chief judge. The standards adopted by this order have eliminated the certification of these programs by the chief judge.

Accordingly, the chief judge of each circuit is hereby directed to enter into an agreement with supervised visitation centers that are willing to comply with the attached standards and effective July 1, 2000, trial judges, when ordering the parties to utilize a supervised visitation program, shall only order parties to supervised visitation programs that have entered into an agreement with the chief judge. Supervised visitation programs operating under the auspices of the court shall comply with these standards by January 1, 2000.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on November 18, 1999.


Chief Justice Major B. Harding

ATTEST:


Debbie Causseaux, Acting Clerk

