

Who We Are and What We Do

KIDS Services provides a safe location for children to have contact with parents they might not otherwise be able to maintain a relationship with due to difficult family transitions. We also provide a neutral location where parents can pick up and drop off children without having to interact directly with each other.

Our goal in providing these services is to eliminate as much of the emotional hardship children frequently endure while helping them maintain safe contact with their parents .

While there may be many allegations made between parents, **KIDS Services** strives to provide a neutral, non-judgmental, and respectful environment for the parents who use our services. Our focus is on ensuring children can have safe and positive contact with their parents.

We have four playrooms at our center that are well stocked with toys and activities. Children of all ages and the visiting parents can choose from numerous activities.

We will do our best to assist all parties through the process to ensure the children have an enjoyable visit. Please do not direct any anger with the other parent or perceptions of unfairness of the system towards us. We are not responsible for the Court's decision. We are here so children can have continued contact with their parents during times of transition or recovery.



KIDS
Services

**Supervised
Visitation and
Exchange
Program**



KIDS Services
1585 E Leighfield Drive
Suite 110
Meridian, ID 83646
(208) 375-5800
visitation@[kidsservices.net](mailto:visitation@kidsservices.net)
www.kidsservices.net

What is Supervised Visitation?

Supervised visitation is designed to maintain the contact between a child and a parent when there are concerns for the emotional or physical well-being of a child. The parenting time occurs in the presence of a third person who is responsible for observing the interaction of the participants and ensures the safety of those involved.

Most families who participate in visitation programs have been ordered by the court to do so. Typically, the Courts will order supervised visitation based on issues of protection and safety.

Our visitation program is designed to maintain the contact between a child and parent during the court process and the time when a parent is working on identified issues. A court may also order these services when contact is being reestablished after a prolonged absence; allowing both child and parent to become reacquainted in an environment that is comfortable for the child.

How Often Can a Parent Visit With Their Child ?

The Court's order will specify how often a parent can visit with a child.

KIDS Services facilitates visits Monday through Friday 12:30 pm to 7:30 pm and weekends, 10:00 am to 7:30 pm (based on current visitation schedules). Every effort is given to accommodate previously agreed on visitation times. Due to constraints on the facility and number of facilitators, parties may have to be open to changes in the schedule.

How Can Supervised Visitation Help?

Many benefits are possible. Supervised visitation provides a safe setting that allows children to develop or renew a healthy relationship with the visiting parent. It can reduce conflict and make sure no one will be hurt or unfairly blamed for trying to do harm. It can offer an opportunity to reinforce good parenting skills. It provides time for trust to develop between parents and children. During long court processes, it can allow for continued contact between parents and children.

The procedures and ground rules from the initial intake to the final visit are designed to support every family member and eliminate risk.

Reasons To Use a Professional Service

There is nothing to prohibit you from using a "non-professional" relative, friend, or acquaintance. Many court orders will allow that as an option, providing both parents can agree on who to use. This option often does not work out.

First, there is the difficulty in finding someone you both agree. Chances are very you will not be able to find an individual both of you will trust and feel comfortable with.

Secondly, it puts a strain on friendships. Many well-meaning friends and relatives will agree to provide the service but quickly tire of the regular commitment and/or being in the middle of your conflicts. It is difficult for friends and relatives to restrain from taking sides.

And, finally, it may actually detract from the quality of the parent/child time together. It is often tempting to spend time interacting with the acquaintance rather than focusing on the child.

The Benefits of Supervised Visitation

For the child: It allows them to maintain a relationship with both parents. They can anticipate the visits without the stress of worrying about what is going to happen, and enjoy their time in a safe, comfortable environment without being put in the middle of their parents' conflict and/or other problems.

For the visiting parent: Adult participants may have ambivalent feelings or frustration over program rules.

We understand that visiting with a child in the presence of a third party can be uncomfortable at first. Most children and parents quickly adjust to the situation. If allegations have been made, they can visit without fear of any new accusations because there is someone present who can verify what happened during their time together.

It is best if the parent is able to put aside any feelings they may have towards the system or the other parent and focus on the relationship with their child.

For the custodial parent: Visit arrangements are made by the center, so you don't have any contact before, during or after the visit with a person who you are in conflict. In the safe atmosphere provided by the program, you can allow your child to have contact with the other parent without worry and have time for yourself.

For all parties: It is important parents remain flexible. Remember, **this is about the children and their needs**. It may require some sacrifices on the part of the adults. You will probably not have difficulties if you can truly think about it from the child's point of view.