

Non-FTS Visitation and FTS Visitation Practices

Non-FTS Visitation							FTS Visitation		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>The parent cannot talk about court proceedings or events leading to court action.</p>							<p>Focus on the trauma of the child being placed out of the home and help parents to address this with the child. Be sure to discuss: How all participants feeling about the separation and the reasons why placement was needed (without blaming). Instead, we join with the parent to help the child overcome the trauma of separation.</p>		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>The parent needs to avoid any negative comments about the other parent, caretaker, DCFS, or others on whom the child/children depends to meet their needs.</p>							<p>Parental concerns and suggestions are welcomed. This step is critical to forming a trusting, but non-collusive, relationship with the parent. Although, some comments may best be discussed without the presence of children.</p>		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>The parent is permitted and highly encouraged to bring items to their visits, i.e. appropriate games, books, puzzles, snacks, and/or other appropriate activities.</p>							<p>Whenever possible plan visits in a home or other normative family setting. If no safety or trauma issues are present, then the best place is the parent’s home. The home of the child’s caregiver or relative is a good alternative.</p>		

Non-FTS Visitation							FTS Visitation		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>The parent should not bring others to the visit except in special circumstances. The parent should consult with the worker prior to bringing anyone else to the visit, including extended family.</p>							<p>Include caregivers, grandparents, and extended family in planning for and facilitating frequent, high-quality visits. Unless there is a concern about safety or trauma issues then keeping children connected to loved ones is our top priority.</p>		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>The parent needs to avoid excessive expression of emotion that might frighten, confuse, or upset the child/children.</p>							<p>Do not restrict visits because of a parent or child's strong emotional response unless a clinical assessment determines that a child's safety or well-being is at risk. Ensure appropriate support by preparing kids, parents, and foster parents for visits and follow up after the visit, if needed, to process strong emotions.</p>		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>The DCFS representative who supervises the visit will be responsible for making sure these rules are enforced. The visit will end immediately if these rules are not followed.</p>							<p>Use visits to help parents to improve their ability to meet their children's needs. During or soon after visits, parents should receive feedback about their interaction with the child and the parenting skills they exhibited during the visit, and what improvement might be needed.</p>		