

Social worker preparation needed ahead of supervised visit, working in consultation with Supervisor:

1. **Use SDM to determine high, moderate or low risk level**, and ensure design of supervised visit complies with best practice guidance. Risk level should be reassessed every 90 days
2. **Clearly document** rationale for risk level assigned, including any safety factors present – both in LINK, and in supervised visitation request form
3. **Hold 1-1 conversation** with person responsible for supervising the visit, to give further context and answer any questions regarding details documented in the request form
 - Should complement (not substitute for) the written information in the request form
 - Should occur every time someone new supervises the visit (e.g. a change in case aid or provider should trigger a new 1-1 conversation)
 - Should occur every time a new development arises in a case that has relevance to the supervised visit (e.g. a new safety factor arises)

DCF Statewide Supervised Visitation – Best Practice Guide

April 2019

	Risk level – to be taken directly from SDM		
	High	Moderate	Low
Description of risk level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both risk and safety factors present Potential flight risk Includes all OTCs (in the event of prolonged contested OTCs – this can be modified by PS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No safety factors, but risk factors remain – e.g. parent not sufficiently progressed on identified issues All committed children not deemed high risk TPR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No safety or risk factors present Clear path toward reunification, and plan for moving to unsupervised visits
Required training level to supervise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCF or qualified provider staff only No interns No relatives or foster parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be staff, interns, or appropriate relatives/foster parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be staff, interns, or appropriate relatives/foster parents
Required level of supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within earshot & eyesight Constant supervision – no distractions No personal phone use Children must be accompanied by staff member at all times (including being taken to the bathroom) Coverage must be arranged for any staff breaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within earshot & eyesight Constant supervision – no distractions No personal phone use Children must be accompanied by staff member at all times (including being taken to the bathroom) Coverage must be arranged for any staff breaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision in keeping with the permanency plan & family circumstances Periodic check-in No personal phone use
Visit location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In DCF office – with security present (i.e. not on weekends) Provider structured visitation center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim for most normative environment possible given the details of the case – could be in community or office For community – assess location based on ability to provide oversight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim for most normative environment possible given the details of the case – should be in community, not office For community – assess location based on ability to provide oversight
Visit duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than 2 hours per visit, unless court-mandated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be longer than 2 hours – depending on permanency plan & family circumstances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be longer than 2 hours – depending on permanency plan & family circumstances
Special considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-authorized participants only When determining number of supervising staff required, need to consider age & number of children, developmental challenges, and/or transport needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-authorized participants only When determining number of supervising staff required, need to consider age & number of children, developmental challenges, and/or transport needs Recent change in legal status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorized participants will be at discretion of person responsible for supervising the visit Recent change in legal status New incident or safety factor will require reassessment of risk level