

CHIPS Pilot Project Roundtable

7/18/19

Best Practices for Visitation/Family Time

- One of the Four Cornerstones of Parent Engagement - ABA Center on Children and the Law
- Branding
 - Visits? Family Interaction?
 - County Agency
 - Family Interaction Plan -
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1EmZbscWJ2dcE3AQZQs1sIIXJS3Muhb9j>
 - National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Enhanced Resource Guidelines
 - "Family Time"
 - Courts should discourage the use of the term "visitation" which does not communicate the intimacy and importance of the parent/child/sibling relationship. (p. 85)
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1FH7z18maOxblUdSABDCn6nZjswqiFai2>
 - Define "Family Time" inclusively, including telephone calls, skype/facetime, letters, face-to-face interaction, attendance at school or medical appointments
 - Another term to use is "Parenting Time"
- Client Preparation
 - Rise - "Making the most of visits" Handout
 - https://drive.google.com/open?id=10UG6a_9GUGKJrOr5T2WcRuRyRI1HtHL4
 - How to handle clients' phones during visits
- When and How Often to Raise Family Time Issues
 - TPC
 - "When children are placed in out-of-home care during the initial assessment process, face-to-face family interaction **must** occur within 5 business days of placement." (CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards, p. 51)
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1LoEsHbE9KAFgNX1tIH0icTYxZqRw8rYc>
 - Talk to caseworker about when Family Interaction Plan will be done (should be done within 60 days of placement, per Ongoing Standards, p. 40). Ask to have client involved in plan and ask to be present as well.
 - Initial hearing/Plea hearing/pre-Disposition hearings
 - How has family time been going? If well, report to the Court about frequency and nature of family time. Consider raising motion to increase #

- or length of visits. Is it consistent with Family Interaction Plan? Has the Family Interaction Plan been made?
 - Motion to Set Reasonable Family Interaction Time
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1GFPzA-TsFYfmlrD1kMfTScU-EjqnHOPI>
- Disposition & Post Disposition hearings
 - How has family time been going? If well, report to the Court about frequency and nature of family time. Consider raising motion to increase # or length of visits. Is it consistent with Family Interaction Plan? Has the Family Interaction Plan been provided to you?
 - Disposition:
 - If Agency is asking for a condition related to visitation, ask for the Court to review the Family Interaction Plan and set conditions and/or schedule more favorable to your client
 - Continue to talk to your client and push the County/Agency to increase frequency and duration of family time, as well as supervision and place of family time (in-home or at a friend or relative's home as opposed to a meeting location)
 - Article on Frequency of Visits:
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1IHGvnHNtt9wbFM04osgo1dJFIY8a3D4p>
 - Motion to Set Reasonable Family Interaction Time Post-Dispo
 - https://drive.google.com/open?id=11o5CIDxGt8AyGG_GJVW78-aVic9lzdQX
- Know your Child Development!
 - Ongoing Standards in WI say best practice is for 3-5 visits per week for children ages 0-5
 - Visitation with Infants and Toddlers Practice and Policy Brief
 - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fi7X00SLhXlktV2CU-wffMms88hLUALJ>
- Trauma
 - ACE (adverse childhood experience) - Removal from custodial parent is traumatic event. Argue that frequent family time helps alleviate the trauma of this adverse childhood experience.
- What has worked well for you??