

Pennsylvania Visitation Best Practice Key Components

To support and encourage best practices, Pennsylvania's child dependency system must understand and approach visitation as a right, not a privilege.

1. Visitation is strength based and empowerment driven.
2. There is a careful assessment of risk and safety to help develop objectives for the family designed to drive the purpose and goals for the visits.
(Visitation Manual pg.23)
3. Teams, who provide collaborative efforts to strengthen and build families, are present in each County.
4. A creative visitation plan includes clearly identified and communicated roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the visitation plan.
5. Frequency and duration of visits respects the individualized needs of the children and their parents/guardians and the evidenced based value of promoting reunification through maintaining family contact.
(Pennsylvania Visitation Manual).
6. The developmental needs of the child and their parents/guardians are individually considered.
7. The location of visits are creatively designed for privacy and interaction only as restrictive as required to protect the children. (Visitation Manual)
8. Effort and planning to manage participant reactions to visits occur both initially and ongoing as part of the visitation plan.
9. Effort and planning to provide all avenues of positive connections to the family and community occur both initially and ongoing as part of the visitation plan.
10. Careful consideration should be given to the level of oversight that occurs during visits between a child and parent, with the least restrictive oversight provided to allow for the most natural interaction, while ensuring the safety of the Child during visits.