



224 S. Hanover St, Carlisle PA 17013

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HOW DOES STEPS VISITATION SERVICE WORK??

ABC provides a visitation program called STEPS which stands for Supervised Time Engaging Parents with Support. We are a unique visitation program in that our specialized staff is in the room with the family to prompt and encourage if necessary as an effort to provide positive interactions. Additionally the large home environment allows parents to engage as parents, doing classic parental tasks such as providing meals, giving baths, and setting limits based on the needs of the environment. The goal is to provide positive engagement to support a safe and positive environment for all. While prompts, cues and parenting skills are modeled, prompted and discussed, this is not a parenting program, therefore we do not provide any evaluative assessment of their interaction.

Our staff do document all interactions and provide 100% visual and auditory supervision throughout the entire session. Sessions are not video recorded. Records are kept of the session engagement, however the only information released to the court will be a summary of visits and general remarks on the types of engagement, communication and limit setting that occurred. **These reports must be requested by the court** and will be sent to both parties. Additionally if at any point in a session, there is an occurrence worthy of an incident report, that information will be released to the custodial parent within 12 hours. An incident report may not necessarily require a visit to end, and may not involve any wrongdoing by the visiting parent, however, the criteria is that any communication, action or behavior of the child or visiting parent that results in any discomfort or concern to the supervisor is reportable. All supervisors are mandated reporters and will follow PA childline guidelines. We do not provide assessment information for custodial decisions.

We offer No-Contact exchanges for families who are unable to interact civilly in front of the children. We are not responsible for any activity outside the house. We do not release any personal information regarding the visit to the custodial parent other than information regarding the child (care given) or any noteworthy issue that may result in a later behavioral response. Our primary responsibility is safety to the child and appropriateness of the parents.

We will follow the recommendations of the court order for frequency and duration and payment responsibility, if not is specified both parties must agree. We cannot require either party to comply with a court order, but will provide documentation if they do not.

Payment must be received 48 hours prior to any session. Cancellations or no-shows result in charge for the 1st hour of service. All release forms and information must be received prior to the first session being scheduled.

You may visit our website at www.abchelps.com to learn more about this service, as well as pay online and see pictures of our play rooms under (individual and family services) tab.

Thank you
Kim Sweger LCSW BCD
ABC Executive Director

ABChelps.com