# Supervised Visitation Program Annual Report

Federal Fiscal Year 2014

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>T</b>		GE
I.	INTRODUCTION	1
II.	ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM	1
III.	COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	2
IV.	HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS	3
V.	ACCESS AND VISITATION GRANT	3
VI.	APPENDICES	
	A. SUPERVISED VISITATION LEGISLATION4	-6
	B. STATISTICAL DATA7	- 13
	C. SUPERVISED VISITATION COORDINATORS14	- 16
	D. SUPERVISED VISITATION SITES17 -	- 22

#### I Introduction

Historically, New Jersey's Family Courts have been challenged by difficult cases involving the parent-child relationship. Parents who are separated or divorced may show signs of substance abuse or may have had little or no contact with their children over a long period of time. Furthermore, the relationship between estranged parents can create a stressful time for all involved. When this affects the parents, the resulting anger and hostility may affect the life of the child. The deterioration of a relationship between parents should not prevent children from maintaining a bond with each parent regardless of parental conflict or domestic violence.

In 1984, the New Jersey legislature adopted the Supervised Visitation Program (codified N.J.S.A. 2A:12-7 et seq.), hereafter referred to as the Program, recognizing that "the inability of a parent to spend time with a child poses serious psychological problems to both the parent and child and prevents the growth of a normal, healthy relationship." The Legislature in adopting the act sought to preserve the benefits of bonding between the child and the absent parent while ensuring the safety and welfare of the child.

The legislation makes a compassionate commitment to the philosophy that the parent/child relationship is significant and a necessary part of both the child and parents lives. The Program, by identifying safe facilities in local communities for visitations to take place and enlisting volunteers to closely monitor these difficult cases, provides the opportunity for this commitment to be achieved.

## II. Administration of the Program

### A. Administrator

N.J.S.A. 2A:12-7 et seq. designates the Administrative Director of the Courts as the Administrator of the Program. The legislation sets forth the specific duties and responsibilities of the Administrator. The Administrator is also responsible for arranging for technical assistance to Program Coordinators in the counties.

#### **B.** State Coordinator

The State Coordinator of the Program, as part of the staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts, serves as the Program's statewide manager, ensuring its compliance with the legislation, Court Rules and the Procedures Manual. The State Coordinator also provides technical assistance to the counties.

### **C.** County Coordinators

There are Supervised Visitation Program County Coordinators (hereafter referred to as County Coordinators) in each of the counties who manage the Program at the local (Superior Court) level. The County Coordinator ensures that all components of the Program are effectively managed. These components include reviewing all cases referred for program participation, scheduling sites and volunteers to meet visitation schedules and submitting statistical data to the State Coordinator. The County Coordinator ensures that the screening, training, managing and supervising of all staff and volunteers in the Program complies with applicable and approved standards. County coordinators report matters specific to the Program to the Family Division Manager.

### **III.** Community Involvement

The Program blends dedication, skills and community spirit into a special Family Division service.

#### A. Volunteers

In addition to court staff, volunteers are a key component of the Program. Volunteers provide supervision not only during the day but during evenings and weekends so that visitation can occur at times convenient to the families. The volunteers serve as neutral observers, ensuring the safety of the child; they intervene only when necessary.

All volunteers must complete a certified training course before beginning supervision. Training is conducted by the County Coordinators, with technical assistance from the Administrative Office of the Courts as needed.

### **B.** Community Sites

Community sites support the Program by donating their facilities. All sites prior to use must first be approved by the Administrative Director of the Courts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:12-7 et seq. Sites must be accessible, functional, comfortable, and safe.

### **IV.** How the Program Works

### A. Referral By the Court to the County Coordinator

Referral to the Program by the court is appropriate in dissolution, nondissolution or domestic violence cases where the court is concerned about the physical or emotional welfare of the child and after third-party supervision provisions have been exhausted. Additionally, domestic violence cases awaiting risk assessments are referred to the program.

### **B.** Court Order

The court order should stipulate: the length of visits, the duration of supervised visitation, the names of the individuals attending the visitation and a review date for determining if supervision is to continue.

### C. Pre-Screening Interview

A comprehensive interview is conducted by the County Coordinator. The purpose of the interview is to assess the case's suitability for the Program, gather information, and, if appropriate, arrange a tentative schedule for the visitations. During the interview, the parties are given a copy of the rules of visitation that will govern each session.

#### **D.** Visitation

The observer can be a County Coordinator, court staff or a volunteer. Their role is to serve as a neutral observer and carefully monitor the visitation intervening on behalf of the child when necessary. The observer may terminate the visitation session if the rules of the visitation are violated or if, in the judgment of the observer, continuation of that visit is stressful to the child or threatening to the welfare of the child.

### V. Access and Visitation Grant

Since 1997, the New Jersey Judiciary has been the recipient of funds to sustain the Program through the Federal Access and Visitation grant. The grant requires that funds be used by the states to establish and/or continue programs to support and facilitate non-custodial parents' access to and visitation with their children. In FFY 2014, the New Jersey Judiciary received \$217,180.00 in funds through the Federal Access and Visitation grant. These funds were distributed among the counties based on need and number of litigants served.

# **Appendix A**

**Supervised Visitation Program Legislation** 

### § 2A:12-7. Legislative findings and declarations

The Legislature finds and declares that:

- a. In the area of child visitation a court often orders supervised visitation where there has been a history of child abuse, medical disabilities, psychiatric problems or other situations where the safety and welfare of the child may be jeopardized.
- b. Often court ordered supervised visitation never occurs due to the inability to locate volunteers willing to be present during the visitation and a facility in which the visitation may take place.
- c. The inability of a parent or guardian to spend time with a child poses serious psychological problems to both the parent and the child and prevents the growth of a normal, healthy relation-ship.
- d. The purpose of this act is to facilitate supervised visitation by making the facilities and members of local community organizations available to assist in court ordered supervised visitation.

### § 2A:12-8. Definitions

As used in this act:

- a. "Approved community organization" means a community organization which applies to the director for participation in the program and is approved for participation;
- b. "Director" means the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts;
- c. "Program" means the Supervised Visitation Program created pursuant to this act.

### § 2A:12-9. Supervised visitation program; creation

There is created a program to be known as the "Supervised Visitation Program" which shall be administered by the Director.

### § 2A:12-10. Purpose

The purpose of the program shall be to promote court ordered supervised visitation by having approved community organizations throughout the State supply facilities and personnel to enable supervised visitation to take place.

#### § 2A:12-11. Duties of director

The director shall:

- a. Publicize the existence of the program;
- b. Adopt rules for the program including among other things--(1) Standards for approved community organizations, (2) Standards for accounting and auditing, and (3) The number of approved community organizations needed throughout each county;
- c. Prepare uniform applications for community organizations to apply for participation in the program, which application shall request, among other things-(1) The name, address, county and function of the community organization, (2) The size and location of the facility where supervised visitation would take place, (3) The average number of persons available in the facility at any given time who would be present during the supervised visitation, (4) The community organization's fee for use of its personnel and facilities for the program, (5) The number of persons the facility could accommodate at one time, and (6) The general contents of the facility;
- Select and approve those community organizations which comply with the director's standards and which would accept the lowest fee for participation in the program;
- e. Prepare a printed list by county of approved community organizations available for participation in the program;
- f. Distribute the list to each court within the State having jurisdiction over child visitation matters:
- g. Prepare and submit budget estimates of State appropriations necessary for the operation of the program and make recommendations with respect thereto;
- h. Report annually to the Legislature and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on the activities of the program and make recommendations with respect thereto; and
- i. Do all other things necessary and proper to implement the purposes of this act.

# § 2A:12-12. Court with jurisdiction; order for visitation at approved community organization.

Any court having jurisdiction over a child visitation matter, which orders supervised child visitation, may direct in the order that the visitation take place at an approved community organization.

# **Appendix B**

# **Statistical Data**

These data are required to be reported annually to the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

# TABLE ONE SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2014

# **NEW CASES**

County	
Burlington	93
Camden	6
Cumberland	11
Essex	140
Gloucester	15
Hudson	118
Mercer	*
Middlesex	77
Monmouth	67
Morris/Sussex	12
Ocean	16
Passaic	17
Salem	14
Union	14
Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren	21
Total	621

The data here represent the status of program participants.

\*Due to facility access restrictions, this data is currently unavailable

# TABLE TWO SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2014

# **CLIENT INFORMATION**

County	NCP	CP	NCP	CP	Grandparent/	Children
	Father	Father	Mother	Mother	Legal	in
					Guardian	Common
Burlington	38	0	10	0	3	79
Camden	6	0	0	6	0	9
Cumberland	8	0	0	7	1	13
Essex	133	5	9	133	4	198
Gloucester	0	0	0	7	1	13
Hudson	97	23	27	99	12	174
Mercer	44	7	8	41	3	73
Middlesex	54	8	8	54	1	94
Monmouth	79	15	11	67	4	135
Morris/Sussex	14	0	2	0	0	12
Ocean	11	1	3	12	4	22
Passaic	19	7	8	16	2	33
Union	17	5	5	17	2	40
Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren	15	3	6	15	3	27
m ( )	<b></b>		0.7	4= 4	40	000
Total	535	74	97	474	40	922

# TABLE THREE SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2014

# **MARITAL STATUS**

County	Never	Married	Separated	Divorced	Data Not
-	Married	to Each	from Each	from Each	Reported
	to Each	Other	Other	Other	_
	Other				
Burlington	28	7	7	4	2
Camden	10	0	0	2	0
Cumberland	5	2	4	4	0
Essex	240	24	0	16	0
Gloucester	3	1	2	2	0
Hudson	86	59	77	16	8
Mercer	36	5	6	8	45
Middlesex	28	9	8	7	72
Monmouth	116	16	0	40	0
Morris/Sussex	6	4	6	0	0
Ocean	12	0	0	5	10
Passaic	40	2	4	4	0
Union	18	26	0	0	0
Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren	24	0	14	0	1
Total	652	155	128	108	138

# TABLE FOUR SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2014

# RACE/ETHNICITY

County	Am.	Asian	Black/	Hispanic	Native	White	Two or	Data Not
	Indian/		African	Or	Hawaiian/		More	Reported
	Alaska		American	Latino	Pac.		Races	
	Native				Islander			
Burlington	0	0	20	5	0	26	0	0
Camden	0	0	4	2	0	6	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	6	1	0	9	0	0
Essex	0	2	173	67	0	41	1	0
Gloucester	0	0	6	1	0	9	0	0
Hudson	0	12	48	123	0	30	13	32
Mercer	0	5	46	30	0	22	0	0
Middlesex	0	3	6	21	0	15	6	74
Monmouth	0	3	34	32	90	0	0	17
Morris/	0	1	0	1	0	11	1	2
Sussex								
Ocean	0	0	0	0	0	13	18	0
Passaic	0	0	10	21	0	10	1	10
Union	0	0	12	16	0	14	0	4
Somerset/	0	2	4	4	0	25	3	4
Hunterdon/								
Warren								
Total	0	28	369	324	90	231	43	143

# TABLE FIVE SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2014

# **ANNUAL INCOME**

County	Less Than	\$10,000 -	\$20,000 -	\$30,000 -	\$40,000 and	Data Not
_	\$10,000	\$19,999	\$29,999	\$39,999	above	Reported
Burlington	33	12	3	0	0	3
Camden	4	2	1	1	0	4
Cumberland	0	6	6	3	1	0
Essex	86	109	48	27	13	1
Gloucester	0	6	6	3	1	0
Hudson	74	48	20	19	20	77
Mercer	23	15	8	9	8	40
Middlesex	24	18	5	4	10	64
Monmouth	0	0	0	0	0	176
Morris/Sussex	2	1	5	5	0	3
Ocean	5	4	2	3	2	15
Passaic	18	4	6	2	5	17
Union	6	7	8	6	9	10
Somerset/	12	9	6	0	2	13
<b>Hunterdon/</b>						
Warren						
Total	287	241	124	82	71	423

# TABLE SIX SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2014

# **SERVICES PROVIDED**

County	Mediation	Dev. Parenting Plan	Counseling	Parent Education	Neutral Pick-up /Drop-Off	Supervised Visitation	Visitation Enforcement
Burlington	0	0	0	0	0	51	0
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	109	0
Gloucester	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0	128	0
Mercer	0	0	0	0	0	788	0
Middlesex	0	10	0	0	0	69	4
Monmouth	5	0	6	88	0	88	1
Morris/ Sussex	0	6	0	0	6	6	0
Ocean	0	0	0	0	0	16	0
Passaic	0	0	0	0	0	52	0
Union	0	0	0	0	0	46	0
Somerset/	0	0	0	0	0	21	0
Hunterdon/							
Warren							
Total	5	16	6	88	6	1396	5

# **Appendix C**

# **Supervised Visitation Coordinators**

### **Bergen County**

(did not receive grant funds)

Judith Leggett

E-mail: Jleggett@co.bergen.nu.us
Division of Family Guidance
One Bergen County Plaza, Second Floor
Hackensack, NJ 07601

(201) 336-7398

# **Burlington County**

Andrea Zaneski Family Case Management Courts Facility Building 6<sup>th</sup> Floor 49 Rancocas Road Mt. Holly, NJ 08060 (609) 518-2517

### **Camden County**

Lora Steffier Camden County Hall of Justice 101 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Camden, NJ 08103 (856) 379-2200 ext. 5513

# **Cumberland County**

Stephanie Shaffer, P.O. Cumberland County Courthouse PO Box 866 Bridgeton, NJ 08302 (856) 453-4508

# **Essex County**

Naisirah Shaw The Gibraltar Building 212 Washington Street 10<sup>th</sup> Floor- Room 1053 Newark, NJ 07192 (973) 693-5521

# **Gloucester County**

Chastity Robinson PO Box 655 Woodbury, NJ 08096 (856) 686-7510

### **Hudson County**

Roseanne Lomolino Superior Court of New Jersey, Family Division 595 Newark Avenue Room 218 Jersey City, NJ 07306 (201) 795-6740

### **Hunterdon County**

Christine Reilly Hunterdon Family Division PO Box 578 Flemington, NJ 08822 (908) 237-5922

# **Mercer County**

Paula Andrews Superior Court of New Jersey Family Case Management Office 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 175 South Broad Street Trenton, NJ 08650 (609) 571-4377

# **Middlesex County**

Wilda Robinson Middlesex County Courthouse 120 New Street New Brunswick, NJ 08903 (732) 519-3293 (973) 247-8489

## **Monmouth County**

Carolyn Napolitani Monmouth County Courthouse P.O. Box 1252 71 Monument Park Freehold, NJ 07728-1252 (732) 677-4083

### **Morris County/Sussex County**

Barbara McKenna, Team Leader Morris County Courthouse PO Box 910 Morristown, NJ 07963-0910 (973) 656-4346

## **Ocean County**

Alexis Magala, S.P.O. Ocean County Justice Complex PO Box 2191 120 Hooper Avenue Room 209 Toms River NJ 08753 (732) 929-2072 ext. 3124

# **Passaic County**

Vanessa Sokolowski 401 Grand Street Paterson, NJ 07505 (973) 247-8600

# **Salem County**

Cynthia Furfari Family Intake P.O. Box 233 Salem, NJ 08079 (856) 935-7510 ext. 8576

### **Somerset County**

Maria Schirripa, S.P.O. Somerset County Family Case Management Office PO Box 3000 Somerville, NJ 08876 (908) 231-7600 ext. 7846

## **Union County**

Nancy Yurek Superior Court, Family Division Union County Courthouse 2 Broad Street 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, New Annex Building Elizabeth, NJ 07207 (908) 659-5902

# **Warren County**

Christine Reilly PO Box 900 Belvidere, NJ 07823 (908) 475-6167

# **Appendix D**

# **Supervised Visitation Site List**

### Bergen:

### **Division of Family Guidance**

One Bergen County Plaza, Second Floor Hackensack, NJ 07601 (201) 336-7398

### **Burlington:**

### **Burlington County Superior Court (Wednesday evening)**

49 Rancocas Road Mount Holly, NJ 08060 (609) 518-2517 Andrea Kearney, Program Coordinator

### Catholic Charities (Tuesday/Wednesday evenings; Saturday morning)

115 West Pearl StreetBurlington NJ 08016(609) 394-5157Amilia Gallagher, Supervising Monitor

### **The Fatherhood Connection (Tuesday evening)**

Willingboro, NJ 08046 (609) 877-1076 Tashon Jackson, Director

### Camden:

### The Center for Family Services

584 Benson Street Camden NJ 08103 (609) 463-6645 Doris Vidal

### **Cumberland:**

### **Cumberland County Courthouse**

PO Box 866 Bridgeton, NJ 08302 (856) 453-4553 Stephanie Shaffer, Program Coordinator

### **Robin's Nest**

739 South West Avenue Vineland, NJ 08360 (856) 690-9765 ext. 10

### **Essex County:**

### **Essex County Veterans Courthouse**

50 West Market Street Newark, NJ

### **Living Logo Christian Assembly Church**

227-229 Clinton Place Newark, NJ (973) 923-0817 (Saturdays)

### **Gloucester:**

## **Gloucester County Courthouse**

PO Box 655 2 Broad Street Woodbury, NJ 08060 (856) 686-7510 (Wednesday evenings and during court hours)

### Robin's Nest

739 S. West Ave. Vineland, NJ 08360 (856) 690-9765

### **Hudson:**

### Superior Court of New Jersey, Family Division

595 Newark Avenue Room 218 Jersey City, NJ 07306 (201) 795-6740

### **Hunterdon County:**

### **Hunterdon County Family Division**

65 Park Avenue Flemington, NJ 08822

### **Mercer County:**

### **El Centro (Catholic Charities)**

327 S. Broad Street Trenton NJ 08608 (609) 954-7487 Robert Hernandez

### **Mercer County Courthouse**

209 South Broad StreetTrenton, NJ 08690(609) 571-4377Paula Andrews, Program Coordinator

## **Middlesex County:**

# **Middlesex County Family Court Building**

120 New Street New Brunswick, NJ 08903 (732) 519-3286 Wilda Robinson, Program Coordinator

### **Monmouth County:**

### **Monmouth County Superior Court**

PO Box 1252 71 Monument Park Freehold, NJ (732) 677-4050

### **Morris County:**

### **Center for Evaluation and Counseling**

1719 Route 10 East Parsippany, NJ 07054 (973) 829-6960

### **Ocean County:**

## **Ocean County Justice Complex**

PO Box 2191 120 Hooper Avenue Toms River, NJ 08754-2191 (732) 929-2037 ext. 3124 Alexis Magala, Program Coordinator

### **Preferred Children's Services**

1200 River Avenue PO Box 2036 Lakewood, NJ 08701 (732) 905-5106 ext. 101 Stacy M. Welch, Program Director

# **Saint Francis Counseling Center**

4700 Long Beach Boulevard Brant Beach, NJ 08701 (609) 494-8861 ext. 182 Lori Tomaro, Program Director

### **Passaic County:**

### **Paterson YMCA**

128 Ward Street Paterson, NJ 07505

### Salem:

### **Family Intake**

PO Box 233 Salem, NJ 08079 (856) 935-7510 ext. 8576 Cynthia Furfari, Program Coordinator

### **Somerset County:**

#### **Catholic Charities**

540 Route 22 East Bridgewater, NJ 08807 (908) 722-1881 Esther Jannetta

# **Sussex County:**

# First Baptist Church (NJCCR)

4 East Main Street Sussex, NJ 07461 (973) 875-9451 Neutral Drop-off/pick-up only

### **Center for Evaluation and Counseling**

61 High Street Newton, NJ (973) 300-1900

### **Union County:**

### **Union County Superior Court**

Superior Court, Family Division Union County Courthouse New Annex Building Elizabeth, NJ 07207 (908) 659-4604

### Warren:

## **Catholic Charities**

Phillipsburg Family Service Center 700 Sayre Ave. Phillipsburg, NJ 08865 (908) 454-2074 Susan Reimer - Supervisor