

Supervised Visitation Program Annual Report

Federal Fiscal Year 2013

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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, non-dissolution 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 2013, the New Jersey Judiciary received \$222,295.00 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;
- d. 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 2013**

NEW CASES

County	
Burlington	123
Camden	10
Cumberland	9
Essex	169
Gloucester	6
Hudson	141
Mercer	*
Middlesex	89
Monmouth	36
Morris/Sussex	15
Ocean	20
Passaic	19
Salem	14
Union	28
Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren	6
Total	685

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 2013**

CLIENT INFORMATION

County	NCP Father	CP Father	NCP Mother	CP Mother	Grandparent/ Legal Guardian	Children in Common
Burlington	91	0	29	0	3	158
Camden	8	0	2	0	1	16
Cumberland	14	4	5	14	1	31
Essex	134	15	131	16	4	197
Gloucester	6	0	0	6	0	9
Hudson	115	17	22	117	9	182
Mercer	64	9	10	60	5	93
Middlesex	64	9	9	67	3	111
Monmouth	175	5	5	175	0	217
Morris/Sussex	15	0	0	1	0	18
Ocean	17	3	3	17	0	25
Passaic	16	9	10	16	1	37
Salem	5	1	2	5	1	10
Union	25	4	6	24	2	35
Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren	4	3	4	4	2	8
Total	753	79	238	522	32	1147

The data here represent the status of program participants.

**TABLE THREE
SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2013**

MARITAL STATUS

County	Never Married to Each Other	Married to Each Other	Separated from Each Other	Divorced from Each Other	Data Not Reported
Burlington	93	27	0	0	0
Camden	6	0	0	4	0
Cumberland	29	0	4	4	0
Essex	246	0	18	20	12
Gloucester	10	2	0	0	0
Hudson	104	35	30	9	93
Mercer	107	20	4	12	0
Middlesex	81	16	28	24	0
Monmouth	336	12	0	12	0
Morris/Sussex	6	2	3	4	1
Ocean	18	0	4	18	0
Passaic	39	0	0	12	0
Salem	5	2	0	6	0
Union	46	0	3	3	7
Somerset/HunterdonWarren	4	0	2	0	9
Total	1130	116	96	128	122

The data here represent the status of program participants.

**TABLE FOUR
SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2013**

RACE/ETHNICITY

County	Am. Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic Or Latino	Native Hawaiian/ Pac. Islander	White	Two or More Races	Data Not Reported
Burlington	0	0	35	14	0	74	0	0
Camden	0	0	5	2	0	4	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	4	5	0	9	1	19
Essex	0	1	173	58	0	38	30	0
Gloucester	0	0	5	0	0	7	0	0
Hudson	1	5	33	137	2	49	12	41
Mercer	0	6	50	41	0	49	2	0
Middlesex	0	10	13	36	6	84	3	0
Monmouth	0	0	68	57	0	58	0	177
Morris/ Sussex	0	1	3	2	0	10	0	0
Ocean	0	0	2	2	0	16	0	20
Passaic	0	0	13	23	0	16	0	0
Salem	0	0	0	4	0	10	0	0
Union	1	4	11	13	0	13	2	17
Somerset/ Hunterdon/ Warren	0	1	3	2	0	11	0	0
Total	2	28	418	396	8	448	50	274

The data here represent the status of program participants.

**TABLE FIVE
SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2013**

ANNUAL INCOME

County	Less Than \$10,000	\$10,000 - \$19,999	\$20,000 - \$29,999	\$30,000 - \$39,999	\$40,000 and above	Data Not Reported
Burlington	-	-	-	-	-	123
Camden	0	5	1	3	1	1
Cumberland	8	0	3	1	1	25
Essex	29	6	5	2	10	248
Gloucester	9	2	1	0	0	0
Hudson	58	53	21	19	30	99
Mercer	14	6	7	3	1	117
Middlesex	68	27	30	8	19	0
Monmouth	0	85	68	20	12	175
Morris/ Sussex	4	2	3	0	4	3
Ocean	8	4	5	3	0	20
Passaic	21	6	6	4	3	12
Salem	0	3	4	4	3	0
Union	8	2	4	0	7	40
Somerset/ Hunterdon/ Warren	7	2	2	1	2	3
Total	234	203	160	68	93	866

The data here represent the status of program participants.

**TABLE SIX
SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2013**

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	123	0
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	11	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	425	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	151	0
Gloucester	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0	136	0
Mercer	0	0	0	0	0	1146	0
Middlesex	0	0	0	0	0	77	0
Monmouth	0	0	0	173	0	45	0
Morris/ Sussex	0	6	0	0	0	6	6
Ocean	0	0	0	0	20	0	0
Passaic	0	0	0	0	0	52	0
Salem	0	0	0	0	0	14	0
Union	0	0	0	0	0	32	0
Somerset/ Hunterdon/ Warren	0	0	0	0	0	17	0
Total	0	6	0	173	20	2247	6

The data here represent the status of program participants.

Appendix C

Supervised Visitation Coordinators

Bergen County

(did not receive grant funds)

Judith Leggett

E-mail: Jleggett@co.bergen.nj.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

6th Floor

49 Rancocas Road

Mt. Holly, NJ 08060

(609) 518-2517

Camden County

Lora Steffier

Camden County Hall of Justice

101 South 5th Street, 2nd 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

10th 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

Maria Schirripa, S.P.O.

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

2nd 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
2nd Floor, New Annex Building
Elizabeth, NJ 07207
(908) 659-5902

Warren County

Maria Schirripa, S.P.O.
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 Street
Burlington NJ 08016
(609) 394-5157
Amilia 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)

Zadies of the Oranges

141 South Harrison Street
South Orange, NJ 07018
(973) 223-3021
Sosena (Suzy) King – Director

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:

SHEP Program

Family Success Center
87 Park Avenue
Flemington, NJ 08822

Catholic Charities

540 Route 22 East
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
908.722.1881
Esther Iannetta

Mercer County:

El Centro (Catholic Charities)

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

Mercer County Courthouse

209 South Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 08690
(609) 571-4377
Paula 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 Iannetta

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

Hope for Tomorrow

537 East Washington Avenue
Washington, NJ 07882
(908) 689-3130
Andrea Lovas - President