

Standards for Professional and Nonprofessional Parenting Time Supervisors in Family Court Proceedings

Effective March 1, 2014

These standards apply only to family court proceedings¹
and only to cases filed on or after the effective date.

Statutory Authority

[Minn. Stat. § 518.175, subd. 1\(a\)](#), authorizes judicial officers to order supervised parenting time: “If the court finds, after a hearing, that parenting time with a parent is likely to endanger the child’s physical or emotional health or impair the child’s emotional development, the court shall restrict parenting time with that parent as to time, place, duration, or supervision and may deny parenting time entirely, as the circumstances warrant.”

[Minn. Stat. § 518.175, subd. 1a\(b\)](#), states: “The state court administrator, in consultation with representatives of parents and other interested persons, shall develop standards to be met by persons who are responsible for supervising parenting time. Either parent may challenge the appropriateness of an individual chosen by the court to supervise parenting time.”

Supervisor Role and Responsibilities

1. The role of a parenting time supervisor is to:
 - a. Promote the safety and welfare of the child; and
 - b. Help children have safe parental contact consistent with the level of supervision ordered by the court.
2. The parenting time supervisor should not act as an investigator or evaluator of the quality of parenting time.

¹ The legislation directing establishment of these standards applies solely to parenting time for parents and legal custodians in family court proceedings (including paternity proceedings), not to visitation in juvenile protection proceedings. At the court’s discretion or upon the parties’ agreement, these standards may be applied to other family court visitation situations (e.g., third-party visitation).

Qualifications

Unless otherwise ordered by the court, a parenting time supervisor should possess the age, character, maturity, communication skills, physical ability, and willingness to serve as a parenting time supervisor, and should speak the language of the child and supervised parent. If, following appointment, the court becomes aware an individual lacks any of these qualifications, the court should remove the individual from appointment as a parenting time supervisor.

Levels of Supervision

1. *Supervised Parenting Time*

- a. **One-on-One Supervised Parenting Time** is supervision of parent and child contact in which the supervisor maintains continuous, in-person, audio and visual supervision of the contact.
- b. **Group Supervised Parenting Time** is supervision of parent and child contact in which more than one family is supervised simultaneously in the same room or space by one or more supervisors. The supervisor(s) should be available to provide immediate intervention when necessary but is not required to provide continuous audio and visual supervision.

2. *Monitored Parenting Time*

Contact during which the supervisor observes the initial and final interactions between the parent and child and at varying times throughout the contact.

3. *Exchanges*

- a. **Supervised Exchange** is the transfer of the child from one parent to the other with a supervisor who is present at all times and who will intervene when necessary. The arrival and departure times of the parents should be staggered, and the parents should have no contact with each other, unless otherwise ordered by the court.
- b. **Monitored Exchange** is the transfer of the child from one parent to the other with a supervisor who is nearby at all times and who will intervene when necessary. The arrival and departure times of the parents may be staggered, and the parents may have contact with each other, unless otherwise ordered by the court.