

PARENT'S ATTORNEYS SUPPLEMENTAL VISITATION CHECKLIST

PARENT'S ATTORNEY [Preliminary Hearing and On-going Visitation Plan]

- Explain to the parent that s/he can encourage other/extended family members to be present at the hearing following the shelter hearing.
- Inform the parent of his/her right to visitation [ORS 419B.440]
- Explain the visitation process, including:
 - The possibility and reason for supervision
 - The assessment process
 - The possibility of conditions of visitation and why they are imposed
- Underscore the importance of attendance and punctuality.
- Explain that attendance includes emotional support and a focus on the child's needs.
- Articulate the need for good communication between the parent and the caseworker
 - Ensure that the parent has a contact number for the caseworker and the caseworker's supervisor
 - Express the importance of the parent's involvement in visitation planning meetings
- Explain the importance of expressing concerns about the visitation to the agency and the lawyer
 - Suggest that the parent keep documentation about the visitation so that he or she can better articulate her concerns or tell her side of the story
- Inquire about possible relatives, friends, and support systems that could possibly assist in the visitation plan
 - Help parent(s) create a contact sheet
 - Share contact sheet with caseworker
 - Throughout the process ask if the resources identified have been utilized and if not, why not?
- Explain to the parent that bringing an activity such as a coloring book and some crayons to the first visit will ease the tension. Advise the parent to bring a snack that is healthy as opposed to junk food.
- Inquire about whether the worker has explained to the parent the child's reactions to the visitation, reaction to new home placement [especially a child's attachment to the foster parent], and the role of the foster parent in the process.
- Inquire about the inclusion of the parent in the child's life activities.
- Explain what the parent needs to do to change supervision or change frequency of visitation.
- Inquire about whether the parent is allowed other forms of communication and advocate, if appropriate, for them to be included
- Advocate that the visitation plan be improved and articulate the concerns of the parent
- Inform parent of his or her right to request a review of the visitation plan by the juvenile court
- Become familiar with DHS visitation policies and procedures and visitation community resources