



FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY

A Training Manual for Florida's Supervised Visitation Programs with Administrative Supplement



**M. Sharon Maxwell, Ph.D.
Karen Oehme, J.D.**

Wendy P. Crook, Ph.D., Editor

**Institute for Family Violence Studies • College of Social Work
Copyright 2006**

This manual was supported by Contract Number LJ741, awarded by the Department of Children and Families for the State of Florida. It was prepared at the direction of the Task Force on Children's Justice. Points of view in this manual are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the State of Florida, the Task Force on Children's Justice, or the Department of Children and Families.

Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation

The Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation was created in 1996 through an appropriation from the Office of the State Courts Administrator to provide statewide technical assistance on issues related to the delivery of supervised visitation services to providers, the judiciary, and Florida's Department of Children and Families. Since 1996, the Clearinghouse has received contracts on an annual basis from the Department of Children and Families to continue this provision of technical assistance. In 1998, the Clearinghouse published a training manual, *A Competency-Based Training Manual for Florida's Supervised Visitation Providers*, covering the recommended training content for providers developed by the Florida Supreme Court. The current manual is a completely revised and updated curriculum of the 1998 curriculum for supervised visitation programs.

Since 1996, The Clearinghouse has also produced two semiannual newsletters: *The Bar & Bench Visitation Report* and *The Family Visitation Times*. Additionally, the Clearinghouse has produced other technical assistance tools, including the 2003 manual *Child Sexual Abuse Referrals: A Curriculum for Supervised Visitation Providers* and the 2004 *Referrals to Supervised Visitation Programs: A Manual for Florida's Judges*, a curriculum for which judges receive continuing judicial education credit. In addition to producing two comprehensive administrative guides, *A Toolkit on Monitored Exchange* and *A Toolkit for Collaboration Between Florida's Colleges and Universities and Supervised Visitation Programs*, the Clearinghouse has provided on-site training around the United States and Canada, conducted telephonic and web-based training for providers, and responded to telephone requests for assistance from providers and the courts across the country. In 2003, the Clearinghouse received funding from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women to provide technical assistance and training to federal Safe Havens-Supervised Visitation grantees. This funding was renewed for 2005-2006.

The Clearinghouse is a component of the Institute for Family Violence Studies in the Florida State University College of Social Work. The Institute is directed by Wendy P. Crook, Ph.D.. Karen Oehme, J.D., is the Clearinghouse Program Director. Other College of Social Work faculty contribute to the design, development, and evaluation of work products. Ms. Oehme has served on the board of directors of the National Supervised Visitation Network.

Clearinghouse staff may be contacted in the following ways:

Phone: 850.644.6303 or toll free: 1.866.822.4630

Email: clearinghouse@fsu.edu

Mailing Address:

Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation
Institute for Family Violence Studies
College of Social Work, Florida State University
C-2309 University Center, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2570

Visit our website at <http://familyvio.csw.fsu.edu>

Acknowledgements

The Clearinghouse acknowledges the following individuals who provided review and comments during the development of this manual:

Trish Waterman, Director,
Children's Justice Center Supervised Visitation Program, Tampa, Florida

Sharon G. Rogers, Director,
Judge Ben Gordon Family Visitation Center, Shalimar, Florida

Kris Nowland, Director,
The Visitation Center of CASA, St. Petersburg, Florida

Ona Foster, Director,
Faith and Liberty's Place Family Visitation Center, Dallas, Texas

Sonia Crockett, J.D.

Avron Bernstein, J.D.
Office of the State Courts Administrator

Kelly O'Rourke, M.S.W.

Karen Randolph, Ph.D.

Bette Strickland,
Grant Manager, Department of Children and Families

The Clearinghouse also acknowledges the members of the Task Force on Children's Justice, who authorized the development of this manual:

Charles L. Ball, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Lieutenant Jamie Rudd, Polk County Sheriff's Office
The Honorable Daniel Dawson, Circuit Court Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit
Christie Ferris, The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida
Dr. Kelly J. Ferrigno, Medical Director, Child Protection Team
Dr. Marilyn Trigg, Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Dr. Michael L. Haney, Department of Health
Julie Hurst, Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.
Lee Condon, The Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Nadereh Salim, Big Bend Community Based Care
Alisa Manulkin, Child Protection Team Assessment Center, University of Miami
Margaret E. McGauley, Florida Guardian ad Litem Association
Barbara Dirienzo, District 7, Department of Children and Families
Sherri Michel-Singer, Department of Children and Families
The Honorable Elizabeth A. Morris, County Court Judge
Mike Sinacore, Assistant State Attorney, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit
Mr. Scott T. Smith, J.D.
Chris Lolley, Task Force Program Manager, Department of Children and Families

Finally, the Clearinghouse acknowledges the following students who assisted with the development and production of this manual: Laura Chavkin, Christine Houlios, Sarah Stern, Jaime Brinkmeyer, Michelle Tarbutton, Krystal Nardone, and April Murphy.

Manual design and layout: Denise Choppin

Table of Contents

Chapter One:	Welcome & Organization of the Manual	7
Chapter Two:	Florida's Framework for Supervised Visitation Programs	9
Chapter Three:	The Impact of Child Physical & Sexual Abuse on Supervised Visitation	23
Chapter Four:	The Impact of Child Neglect on Supervised Visitation	41
Chapter Five:	The Impact of Domestic Violence on Supervised Visitation	55
Chapter Six:	The Impact of Divorce & Separation on Supervised Visitation	81
Chapter Seven:	The Impact of Parental Substance Abuse on Supervised Visitation	97
Chapter Eight:	The Impact of Parental Mental Illness on Supervised Visitation	113
Chapter Nine:	The Impact of Parental Chronic Illness & Developmental Disability on Supervised Visitation	129
Chapter Ten:	Working with the Court	143
Chapter Eleven:	Practice Skills for Visit Monitors	159
Chapter Twelve:	Guidelines for Visit Monitors: Intake, Monitoring Visits, & Terminating Visits	181
Chapter Thirteen:	Working with Culturally Diverse Families at Supervised Visitation	199

List of Tables

Table 2.1:	Reactions to Supervised Visitation	14
Table 3.1:	Types and Examples of Physical & Sexual Abuse	25
Table 4.1:	Categories of Child Neglect with Definitions and Examples	44
Table 4.2:	Characteristics of Neglectful Parents	49
Table 5.1:	Types of Domestic Violence	58
Table 5.2:	The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children	62
Table 5.3:	Common Behaviors of Batterers at Supervised Visitation Programs	67
Table 5.4:	Risk Identification for Domestic Violence Victims	75
Table 6.1:	The Stages of Grief.....	84
Table 6.2:	Developmental Needs of Children & Responses to Separation and Divorce	85

Table 6.3:	Impact of Parental Responsibility on Visitation	90
Table 7.1:	Progression of Substance Abuse	100
Table 7.2:	Impact of Parental Behaviors & Characteristics on Staff & Children	102
Table 8.1:	Categories of Major Mental Illnesses & their Symptoms	116
Table 8.2:	Impact of Mentally Ill Parents on Children	118
Table 8.3:	Assessing Parents at Intake & Visits	122
Table 10.1:	Appropriate and Inappropriate Uses of Reports	150
Table 12.1:	Parent and Child Information	183
Table 12.2:	Rationale for Background Information	184
Table 12.3:	Preparing Parties for Scheduled Supervised Visitation	187
Table 12.4:	Intervention Examples	192