



## Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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December 23, 2008

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

Dear Karen:

I am writing to let you know how incredibly excited I am to hear about your efforts in Florida regarding revisions and amendments to your State Standards of Practice and development of a certification process for providers of supervised visitation services. It is my understanding that this work has been done under the leadership and expertise guidance of a working Committee resulting from a Legislative mandate. How remarkable (and yet not surprising) the opportunity to be on the forefront of establishing model standards for others to consult and implement. I wanted you and the committee to know how extremely helpful the committees' work has been and how **very interested** California is in the sharing of any information and lessons learned.

As you know, California is one of very few states that have statutorily adopted Uniform Standards of Practice for Providers of Supervised Visitation (Standard 5.20 of the California Standards of Judicial Administration), and so the work that has been undertaken by your committee will have a profound and significant impact on national, state, and local levels. California is seeking to create a process for certification and oversight for providers of supervised visitation. We are also hoping to establish a state regulatory agency for supervised visitation. I am hoping you and the committee will share your insights and information for developing best practice standards and certification process and procedures. This will be invaluable in trying to ensure consensus building, open transparency, and an effective, efficient

Karen Oehme  
December 23, 2008  
Page 2

broad-based collaborative approach in working with key stakeholders, community-based agencies, social service experts, and the court.

Additionally, I wanted to let you know how educational the Clearinghouse on-line materials have been for California. It has served as a valuable resource not only for professionals working in the field of practice of supervised visitation in California but also for many of our Superior Courts (in understanding the intricacies of the operation and administration of supervised visitation) and grant recipients funded under California's Access to Visitation Grant Program. As the state's Access to Visitation Grant Program manager, I have strongly encouraged all new grantee programs providing supervised visitation and exchange services to use their grant funds to purchase the educational manuals to assist with program implementation.

Anyway, it would be great if you extend special words of appreciation to your committee for the dedicated work and tremendous leadership in ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of children and families that depend on high-quality affordable and accessible supervised visitation and exchange services. The committee's work, experience, and processes have been a useful guide to other states.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelly La Botte". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shelly La Botte, J.D.  
California Access to Visitation Grant Program  
Center for Families, Children & the Courts