

## Supervised Visitation with UCI Overview

The mission of the Supervised Visitation (SV) Program at UCI is to provide a safe, family-oriented, and conflict-free environment for children in which to maintain and build on an existing relationship with their parent(s). Our primary goal is to protect the safety, well-being, and best interest of the children served. UCI's SV Program is a member of the International Supervised Visitation Network.

### What to Expect:

- The SV Program provides:
  - Supervised exchanges - The supervisor participates as an observer and only offers supervision while the parties meet to exchange children for a visit. The visit itself is not supervised.
  - Observational visitation - The visit supervisor participates mainly as an observer and only becomes involved in response to rule violations or safety concerns.
  - Supportive visitation - The visit supervisor participates less as an observer and more as a coach to the parent, offering suggestions related to parenting, positive discipline, child development, the child's behavior, the parent-child interaction, and visit activities.
  - Safe Neutral Environment - most services include staggered drop-off and pick-up so that parties are not on the property at the same time.
- All supervised visits take place on-site at UCI. We offer three playrooms all equipped with a variety of toys, crafts, games, and other activities. Many families use the kitchen to cook and share meals, or choose to play on the outside playground during their visit.
- The visit supervisor will remain as unobtrusive as possible and the majority of time will provide supervision from inside the visitation room. When available and appropriate, outside visitation is available in our large yard. During supportive visitation, the visit supervisor spends more time in the visitation room and is more active and directive.
- The Director of UCI's program has a Master's Degree in a behavioral science/counseling psychology field, the program manager holds a bachelor's degree and individual monitors have associate degrees in various fields.
- Both parties, the custodial parent(s) and non-custodial parent(s), must complete an intake appointment before any visits can be scheduled.
- An orientation appointment for children also occurs before visitation begins to help children feel comfortable with the center, the role of the supervisor, and the process of supervised visitation.
- Supervised visits range from 1 hour to 3 hours, it is recommended that we begin with one hour, but ultimately the court order must be followed.

### What Not To Expect from Visitation:

- Our staff members *do not provide any opinions or recommendations related to visitation or custody*. We solely provide visitation and provide our observations to the court. The role of our supervisors is to be an objective party and is not to provide instruction, therapy, or evaluative feedback to clients or legal entities. We do not permit any audio or video recording of visits.
- If visit participants, including children, offer visit supervisors food, participation in games, or other involvement during visits, the supervisor will politely decline in order to maintain our role as an objective party.

### Visitation Hours

- Friday through Monday: 9:00am to 8:00pm
- Wednesday and Thursday: 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- Tuesday is for Intake appointments 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm