

Child Protective Services: Juvenile Court Placement Issues

2102.16 Family Visitation for Children in the Department's Custody

Requirement

Plan all visits required to meet the visitation standards listed in the following Procedures/Practice Issues.

Procedures/Practice Issues

Consider the following points when planning visits:

A child placed in the department's custody should have a family visit in the first week following placement, if possible;

- If a visit is not possible, arrange for a telephone or written contact during the first week of placement;
- The younger the child, the more frequent visitation is needed for the child to maintain an emotional attachment and relationship with the parent;
- A parent has the right to visit the child until the court severs their parental rights or rights are voluntarily relinquished. Where agency resource permits, schedule visits at two-week intervals (supervised visitation may be indicated);
- Grandparents have the right (O.C.G.A. 19-7-3) to petition the court to visit grandchildren under certain circumstances (see Foster Care Policy 1009.9) and,
- In the rare instances that a parent's visits appear detrimental to a child, obtain a professional opinion and court order that visits should stop. Document this in the case record.

For additional information on visitation, see Foster Care Services Manual, Chapter 1009.