

Supervised Access Program

What is Supervised Access?

When parents separate, access visits with children may be problematic. Difficulties can arise during visits or exchanges between the custodial and non-custodial parents that may result in unpleasant interactions for those involved. Supervised Access Centers provide a safe, child friendly, neutral setting for children and non-custodial parents to maintain, rebuild or establish relationships through regularly scheduled supervised visits or exchanges.

Our volunteers:

- Supervise visits between non-custodial parents and child(ren)
- Redirect/intervene when visit guidelines are not followed
- Work closely with staff to ensure the safety and comfort of child(ren) for the duration of the visit
- Record detailed observation notes that provide factual information about each visit

We are looking for individuals who:

- ... have experience working with children and families from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds,
- ...are aware of their own biases, emotions, and beliefs,
- ...are reliable, empathetic, attentive to detail, and diplomatic,
- ...are able to set boundaries and maintain client confidentiality,
- ...can recognize and respond effectively to situations where the safety and well-being of children, parents, staff, volunteers, and the wider community could be at risk,
- ...are available week-ends,
- ...speak fluent English or French; ability to speak other languages is a bonus!

We provide:

- Valuable experience in the social service sector
- Unique and varied training opportunities
- References for anyone who has completed more than forty hours of service
- Additional hours for students completing post-secondary co-op placements or other program requirements

We require volunteers to:

- Complete orientation, training modules, and a shadow shift
- Pass a Police Record Check for the vulnerable sector
- Work a minimum of *two 2.5 hour shifts per month*
- Participate in ongoing training opportunities
- Provide *a one year commitment*

When do visits occur?

- Saturdays at 9:30-11:30, 11:45-1:45, and 2:00-4:00
- Sundays at 11:45-1:45, 2:00-4:00, and 4:15-6:15

For more info, contact Brittany Smyth, *SAP Volunteer Coordinator*
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