



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of CHILD SAFETY

January 24 2024

DCS Specialist Roles

- Determine the level of supervision the parent/caregiver needs.
- Plan for parenting time to occur in the most natural setting possible for the family, while ensuring child safety.
- Work with the family to create a parenting time plan that will support the best interest of the child(ren).
- Though the SVO Provider is able to provide transportation for the child(ren) to parenting time, there may be instances that require additional planning or resources (e.g. large siblings groups in separate living arrangements; children placed in different counties); work with the provider as needed to support successful parenting time;
- Remember that parenting time and other family contact must not be used as a reward or punishment. Changes in parenting time and Family Contact Plans should be based on the FFA – Ongoing or FFA – Progress Update.
- Review the Summary of Supervised Visitation document to determine the family's progress and continued need for supervised parenting time.

Supervised Visitation Only (SVO)

Description of Service

Supervised Visitation Only (SVO) services are provided to maintain safety in parenting time while children are in DCS custody. Supervision and documentation of the interactions between family members are provided to ensure the child's safety and assist the DCS specialist in revising the parenting time plan as needed.

The number of hours of service per week is decided by the needs of the family. There is no standard number of hours per family per week. The number of SVO service hours per week cannot exceed eight (8). Services can be provided for a maximum period of thirteen (13) weeks. An extension past thirteen weeks may be requested if it is determined that supervision continues to be needed to ensure the safety of the child(ren) during parenting time. Extensions of an SVO service request must be approved per the [Service Approval Matrix \(DCS-2434\)](#).

Eligibility

- Parents/Caregivers whose children are in out-of-home care

Consider a referral to SVO services when:

- There is a danger threat that cannot be controlled through means other than supervision (changing the location, who is present, or when parenting time occurs)
- An option for supervision that would be more normal for the family is not available, such as supervision by:
 - Responsible adults
 - Family members/Friends
 - Out-of-Home Caregivers

Service Referral Process

Submit a service request through Guardian. Link the following documents as artifacts with the service request as applicable:

- Most recent completed FFA – Investigation (Assessment), FFA – Ongoing, or FFA – Progress Report
- Current case plan including the Family Contact Plan (if the child was removed more than sixty (60) days before the service request);
- Current court report (if there is Court involvement); and
- Copy of Court Order if the order pertains to the parenting time plan.

- Communicate with the SVO provider to discuss the family's progression in parenting time, and problem solve any barriers that arise in the parenting time plan.

Reference the following materials to learn more about parenting time, and planning for parenting time:

Field Guide - Parenting Time Location

Field Guide - Parenting Time Supervision

Practice Guidelines - Parenting Time (Visitation): Planning Safe, Supportive Parenting Time with Families

Supporting Child and Family Well-Being Through Parenting Time

Parenting Time and Family Contact Plan (ADCS policy manual Chapter 3: Section 6.1)

TraCorp CBT: Parenting Time Planning CH160029

Time frames for Outreach and Services

- The SVO provider will contact the parent/caregiver within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the referral to schedule supervised parenting time, which shall begin within five (5) working days from the receipt of the referral.
- Family interactions are monitored by the SVO provider while ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the child(ren) throughout parenting time. The SVO provider is to document observations of the parent's/caregiver's parenting and upload the Summary of Supervised Visitation into Guardian no less than seven (7) working days following supervised parenting time.
- The SVO provider will contact the DCS Specialist thirty (30) days prior to the end date of the service authorization to determine if the service will be closed or extended.
- The SVO provider may request approval to close the service per the process outlined in the [Service Request Closure Standards](#).

Service Delivery

The SVO provider is responsible to:

- Review the Parenting Time Guidelines with the parent/caregiver to set the expectations for safe and enjoyable parenting time;
- Prepare parent/caregiver for possible reactions from the child during parenting time, and help the parent/caregiver manage their feelings in order to assist their child during parenting time;
- Encourage the child to attend parenting time, but not force a child who is unwilling to participate;
- Be present during the entirety of parenting time while ensuring all contact between the parent/caregiver and the child is within sight and hearing of the SVO provider;
- Monitor parent/caregiver behaviors when there are allegations of sexual abuse (i.e. prohibit photography, physical contact, diapering, gift giving);
- Intervene or end the parenting time session if it becomes harmful to the child; and
- Observe and document the parent/caregiver's parenting skills while the parent/caregiver is interacting with their child.

SVO and Nurturing Parenting Program Coordination

If the parent/caregiver is engaged in both Supervised Visitation Only services and NPP, remember the following:

- NPP Practitioners do not supervise parenting time, nor do they provide transportation for children or adults.
- An NPP Practitioner may reach out to the SVO provider to request information about the dates, times, and locations of when parenting time is occurring.
- The SVO provider must allow the NPP Practitioner to participate in parenting time and allow the parent/caregiver, child and practitioner to engage in the 30-minute nurturing activity.
- The SVO provider must remain in or at the parenting time location as they would if the NPP Practitioner was not there.