

# HB 1194 Caregiver FAQ

## **I'm confused. If Family Time visits can be unsupervised, why do the kids need to be in care?**

In some situations, children may be unsafe to live with their parents but safe to be with their parents for a limited amount of time in a controlled environment like a Family Time visit. Said differently, parenting 24/7 has different responsibilities than parenting during a visit. Also, Family Time provides a safe space for children and their parents to stay connected while the parents work on remedying issues so the family can be reunified.

## **Who is doing the transport and supervising of the initial 72-hour Family Time visit? Will that be a requirement for the caregiver to facilitate and arrange the 72-hour Family Time visit?**

A contracted provider or DCYF staff will conduct Family Time. You will not be required to facilitate or arrange the visit but will need to make the child available. While family time assistance is always welcome, there is no requirement for a caregiver to provide, arrange or transport the child to the visit.

## **Weekends and holidays are not excluded from the 72-hour Family Time visit. Does this mean I might have to accommodate a weekend or holiday visit?**

Yes. DCYF will make every attempt to minimize any impact this requirement may have on you or your family. This may mean simply providing the address to where you will be during that time frame to have the child picked up and return to whatever activity you may be doing. Virtual Family Time may also be an option depending on circumstances. In most situations, it is best that the child has in-person Family Time so that they know their parent is safe and so that they can share interactions like a comforting hug to ease their worries and fears.

## **Will my schedule/pre-existing commitments be considered when scheduling the 72-hour Family Time visit?**

Yes, DCYF will do their best to minimize any interruptions to the caregiver's schedule; however, there may be instances when a 72-hour Family Time visit is not convenient or workable for the foster or kinship family. If you have a commitment that cannot be re-scheduled and must be attended to, please let placement staff know.

## **How is DCYF going to assess the need for supervision at Family Time visits?**

DCYF will continue to assess the need for supervision during Family Time through the analysis of evidence, the vulnerability of the child, protective factors during a limited timeframe, and if those may



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or may not be mitigated by using our existing safety framework. This is much like the analysis that is completed to remove the child but with a limited timeframe in mind.

**If there is going to be a dramatic increase in unsupervised Family Time visits, who will be transporting children to and from these visits? Will the caregiver be required to provide transportation?**

Caregivers are not required to provide transportation to Family Time visits. DCYF will explore using contracted providers for transport-only needs, as well as any other resources that are available and able to assist with transportation. Caregiver assistance is always considered and appreciated, but it is not required.

**I'm concerned about my privacy. If someone known to the child (relatives) is providing transportation to and from Family Time visits, how will my privacy, including my address, be kept confidential?**

Caregiver confidentiality is always a priority to DCYF. If you have concerns about a person transporting to/from your home, please let the caseworker know so they may address it. DCYF will continue to follow confidentiality laws when arranging transportation for family time.

**I've heard that if a caseworker or visit provider isn't available, DCYF will make foster parents supervise visits (including providing transportation). Is this true?**

No, this is not true. Foster parents must make the child available for visits, but they are not required to supervise or provide transportation.