



**Kainuun sote**



## **Visits between a child and a parent in Kainuu**



[www.kainuu.fi](http://www.kainuu.fi)

Supervised and supported meetings and supervised exchanges between a child and a parent under the Social Welfare Act (30.12.2014 / 1301, 27§) are a professionally conducted service to make it possible for a child and the parent living apart from the child to have a safe visitation. The supervision of meetings is always based either on an agreement formalised by the child welfare supervisor or on a court decision defining the necessary measures.

### **Supervised visitation**

If there is special concern about meetings between the child and the other parent, the visitation maybe arranged under supervision. Supervised visitation safeguards the position of the child in the meetings, preventing the threats that have caused the need for supervised visitation and ensuring the child's safety during the meetings. In supervised visitation, the meeting always takes place at the meeting place, and the supervisor must be able to see the and hear both the child and the parent throughout the meeting,

### **Supported visitation**

In supported visits, the supervisor is available to the parent and the child throughout the meeting. The supervisor will control the beginning and the end of the visit. In supported visitation, there is no need for constant supervision. The child and the parent can leave the meeting place if they so wish, for example to get some fresh air, either with an employee or without them. If necessary, the supervisor can support the visits so that they can take place in the best interest of the child and according to the agreement.

### **Supervised exchange**

Supervised exchanges can be arranged if there are such conflicts between the parents that they are not able to deal with the exchanges in the child's best interest. During supervised exchanges, the supervisor makes sure that the

exchanges remain calm and the child goes safely from one parent to the other. If necessary, the exchanges can, where justified, take place without the parents meeting each other.

### **Role of the supervisor**

During the visitation, the supervisor is a safe adult looking after the best interest of the child, with the competence to act as a supervisor as required by law. The principles governing the supervisor's work are the Act on Child Custody and Right of Access and the Social Welfare Act.

The supervisor is always impartial and neutral in relation to the parents, and cannot comment on the justifications for the need of supervision or on other matters related to the visitation. The work is confidential and the supervisors are bound by professional secrecy. The supervisor has the right and the duty to suspend an individual meeting if it is not in the interest of the child. The supervisor will inform the child welfare supervisor in writing if the visits have been suspended or have not taken place. The child supervisor is under an obligation to contact the parents after three consecutive failed or suspended visits and to investigate the reasons why the visitation has been interrupted or has not taken place.

### **Starting and implementing visitation**

The family work of the Kainuu Joint Authority for Social Welfare and Health Care organises the supervised and supported visits under section 27 of the Social Welfare Act as well supervised exchanged, if the municipality of residence of the child is within the Kainuu social and health services region. The service is organised at the meeting place in Teppana and in Children's Home Salmila.

In order to launch the visits, the parents must contact the head of family work

and deliver a formalised agreement or a court order on right of access. The periods and hours of visitation are defined in the formalised agreement or in the court order. A more detailed schedule for starting the visits will be agreed with the head of family work.

The supervisor will draft a written plan for supervised and supported visitation and supervised exchanges together with both parents. The plan will define the details of the visitation. The plan will be drafted either during the first meeting or over the phone before the first visit. The supervisor will also discuss the visitation with the children, taking into account their ages and levels of development. The meetings that take place are recorded in the client information system.

If a parent has to cancel a visit, they must notify the meeting place of the cancellation as soon as possible. If the service is no longer needed, the parents must notify the head of family work.

### **Contact information for the head of family work**

Anne Lukkari

Phone 044 – 710 0375

### **Meeting places:**

Teppana meeting place

Rekitie 1-2

87250 Kajaani

Children's home Salmila

Salmijärventie 300B

87930 Salmijärvi