



Kentucky should...

invest in services that promote ongoing family connection during child welfare involvement.

Parenting time, often known as supervised visitation, is a structured, court-ordered opportunity for a non-custodial parent to spend time with their child under the supervision of a neutral third party.

Previously, supervised visitation was largely intended to observe, document, and ensure family interactions were safe.

Now, there's been a shift in philosophy, practices, and language due to a widely held recognition that families can be more deeply supported and outcomes improved through parenting time.

The research is clear, parenting time:

- ✓ Strengthens parent-child relationships and is strongly associated with shorter out-of-home-care placements and faster reunification.
- ✓ Minimizes the negative impact of separation and loss experienced by families.
- ✓ Enhances parental motivation to change through reassurance that staying connected is good for their child's well-being.

Only a few organizations across the state offer these important parenting time visitation services to their communities, including Bowling Green, Florence, Shelbyville, and Owensboro.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Policy Solution:

Invest in supervised parenting time programs to ensure families have access to services that maintain critical connections between children and their parents or siblings during child welfare involvement.

For children separated from their parents because of abuse, neglect, or other safety concerns, time spent together during that separation is an opportunity to nurture relationships, develop new skills, and lay the groundwork for healing and reunification.

In addition, there's greater emphasis placed on birth parent and foster parent interactions (when it's safe to do so) as a means of reducing parental anxiety, strengthening a child's sense of security, and reinforcing the shared goal of helping children thrive.

By investing in and expanding parenting time programs, Kentucky can help build bridges that strengthen family bonds, promote better outcomes, and reduce costly long-term system involvement.