



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

SUBJECT: Supervised Visitation Programs in New York State

PURPOSE: To examine access to and resources for supervised visitation as ordered by New York State Family Courts.

**Monday
December 16, 2024
Hearing Room C
Legislative Office Building
11:00 am**

ORAL TESTIMONY WILL BE BY INVITATION ONLY

Under the New York Family Court Act divorced, non-custodial parents have a fundamental right to see their children. Many times, non-custodial parents are granted visitation under the supervision of an employee of their local social services department known as supervised visitation programs. These programs serve as essential resources for families who have endured trauma or been affected by domestic violence, abuse, neglect, substance use disorders or mental health diagnoses. According to a July 2023 report from the Working Group on the Future of Supervised Visitation in New York State, twenty counties in New York State do not have access to the full range of services intended by supervised visitation programs. In the other counties where there is a supervised visitation program, the resources are very limited and cannot meet the need for these critical services.

The Committees seek to receive testimony from relevant stakeholders to examine access to supervised visitation programs and the resources provided for such programs in New York State to ensure that children are able to maintain relationships with their parents in safe and controlled environments.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committees at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form by **Thursday, December 12, 2024**. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to five minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as soon as possible.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committees' interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Charles D. Lavine
Member of Assembly
Chair, Committee on Judiciary

Andrew Hevesi
Member of Assembly
Chair, Committee on Children and Families

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on Supervised Visitation Programs in New York State are requested to complete this reply form by **Thursday, December 12, 2024** and email to:

Lauren Ryan, Analyst
Assembly Committee on Children and Families
Room 442 – Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: ryanl@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4371

- I plan to attend the following public hearing on Supervised Visitation Programs in New York State to be conducted by the Assembly Committee on Judiciary and the Assembly Committee on Children and Families on Monday, December 16th.
- I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to five minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- I do not plan on attending the above hearing.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____