



Parent-child visits in Kainuu

Supervised and supported parent-child visits and supervised transfers in accordance with the Social Welfare Act (30/12/2014/1301, section 27) are a professionally managed service that enables children and their parents to see each other when living apart. The supervision of visits is always based on either an agreement that has been verified by a child welfare supervisor or a court decision that defines the necessary measures.

Supervised visits

If there is particular concern regarding parent-child visits, these can be supervised. Supervision is used to protect the child's position during the visits and to prevent the risks due to which the supervision was arranged in the first place, as well as to ensure the child's safety. Supervised visits are always held at the meeting place and the supervisor stays in sight and at a hearing distance of the child and parent throughout the visit.

Supported visits

Supported visits include an assigned supervisor that is available to the child and parent throughout the visit. The supervisor determines the beginning and end of the visit. Supported visits do not necessarily need to be supervised throughout. The child or parent may leave the situation to go outside, for example, if they so wish, either with or without the supervisor depending on the agreement. The supervisor shall provide support in the best interest of the child and according to the agreement.

Supervised transfers

Supervised transfers can be arranged when a child's parents are in conflict and unable to handle the transfer situation in the child's best interest. At supervised transfers, the supervisor ensures that the transfer situation remains calm and that the child is transferred from one parent to the other in a safe manner. If necessary and for a just cause, a transfer may take place without the parents coming into contact with each other.

The role of the supervisor

The supervisor represents a safe adult looking out for the child's best interest. Supervisors must be qualified to act in their position as stipulated by the law. The work of supervisors is based on the Act on Child Custody and Right of Access and the Social Welfare Act.

Supervisors always act in an impartial and neutral manner in relation to the child's parents, and they may not comment on the grounds for the need for supervision or any other matters related to the parent-child visits. Supervisors are bound by a duty of professional secrecy. Supervisors have the right and obligation to suspend individual visits if they are not in the best interest of the child. The supervisor must inform the child welfare supervisor of any suspended or cancelled visits. The child welfare supervisor is entitled to contact the parents when there have been three consecutive suspended or cancelled visits to clarify the reasons behind the suspension or cancellation of the visits.

Initiation and implementation of visits

Kainuu wellbeing services county family services offers supervised and supported visits and supervised transfers in accordance with section 27 of the Social Welfare Act to children living in the Kainuu wellbeing services county. The service is available at the Kainuu family centre.

In order to initiate visits, the child's parents must contact the director of the family work unit and present a verified agreement or court decision regarding visits. The frequency of visits and number of hours will appear in the verified agreement or relevant court decision. More precise schedules for initiating the visits can be discussed with the director of the family work unit.

The supervisor, together with both parents, draws up a written visitation plan regarding supervised and supported visits and supervised transfers, in which the visits are defined more in detail. The visitation plan shall be created at the first meeting or via telephone prior to the first visit with the child. The supervisor shall also discuss the visits with the child taking into consideration the child's age and level of development. Occurred visits are recorded in the client database.

If a parent wishes to cancel a scheduled visit, they must inform the meeting place as soon as possible. If the need for the service ceases, the parents must inform the director of the service unit.

Contact details for the director of the service unit

tel. 044-710 0375

Meeting place:

Kajaani family centre / meeting place activities

Lönnrotinkatu 2 C, 2nd floor.

87100 Kajaani