



FAMILY TIME JUDICIAL BENCH CARD

**TOGETHER,
WE MAKE PERMANENCY HAPPEN.**

CONSIDERATIONS

IN PLANNING FAMILY TIME

- The Safety Threshold will be taken into account: Observable, Out of Control, Severity, Vulnerability of the child and Imminency.
- Plans are well-coordinated and documented plans to increase frequency and quality of visits.
- A Monitor is an objective person who can assure safety that has been pre-approved by OKDHS.

LEVELS OF SUPERVISION

LEAST RESTRICTIVE

UNSUPERVISED

The parent and child are allowed time alone with no monitor present. Time visiting together can range from one hour to overnight. The family will communicate with OKDHS what the plans are while they have their child unsupervised and who will be present in the home during this time.

MONITORED

A monitor provides some level of contact during the visit to ensure the plan is followed. The level of involvement of the monitor varies depending on the plan. OKDHS will be present for some of the family time but not all depending on the need of the family.

OBSERVED

A monitor is close enough to observe the parent and child but is not required to hear everything said. The parent may have some time alone with their child if the monitor ensures certain conditions are satisfied. This includes things like taking the child to the restroom unaccompanied by OKDHS or the monitor.

SUPERVISED

The parent and child are in visual and auditory distance of an objective person who can ensure the safety of the child and that the family time plan is followed. OKDHS or the monitor should be sitting in the same room as the parent and child.

MOST RESTRICTIVE

THERAPEUTIC

A professional with clinical or therapeutic skills supervises the family time, which usually has a clinical purpose (i.e. play therapy, family counseling, or monitoring a parent with severe mental illness).



FAMILY TIME JUDICIAL BENCH CARD

PROMPTS

CORE JUDICIAL PROMPTS: USE THESE PROMPTS AT EVERY HEARING TO ASSESS PROGRESS, SAFETY, AND SUPPORT IN FAMILY TIME:

- How long has this current level of Family Time been in place? If more than 30 days, why?
- What needs to happen to move to a less restrictive level of supervision?
- Who is responsible for taking action to support that progress?
- Does the parent know and understand what is expected of them?
- Do the parents have what they need to make progress?
- What needs to happen before the next court hearing to support progress in Family Time?
- Does the current level of Family time support the current case plan goal?

IF FAMILY TIME HAS NOT CHANGED IN 30+ DAYS, CONSIDER:

- What are the safety threats/concerns present at this point in the case? Does this level match the current safety threat?
- What behaviors have changed up until this point in the case?
- What has family time been like up to this point? Are there challenges that need to be addressed before moving to a less restrictive family time?

IF THERE ARE NO ACTIVE SAFETY THREATS:

- If there are no current safety threats for the child, what are the plans for overnight visitation and how quickly is OKDHS moving toward requesting Trial Reunification?
- What is preventing the child entering Trial Reunification?
- Are there any barriers the parents are experiencing that prevent the child from entering Trial Reunification?
- Do the children have any fears and/or anxiety around trial reunification that need to be addressed?