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## FACT SHEET

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### Access to Visitation Grant Program: Request for Training and Technical Assistance (TTA)

The Judicial Council is charged with administering and distributing California's share of the federal Child Access and Visitation Grant funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement. These grants, established under section 391 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Pub.L. No. 104-193 (Aug. 22, 1996) 110 Stat. 2215)—title IV-D, section 469B of the Social Security Act, enable states to establish and administer programs that support and facilitate noncustodial parents' access to and visitation with their children. Under the federal statute, Child Access and Visitation Grant funds may be used for a variety of activities; however, California Family Code section 3204(b)(1) limits the state's use of the grant funds to three types of program services: supervised visitation and exchange services; education about protecting children during family disruption; and group counseling services for parents and children. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) has primary responsibility for administering and managing the grant program.

#### Grant Program Goals

The goals of the Access to Visitation Grant Program are to:

1. Remove barriers and increase opportunities for biological parents who are not living in the same household as their children to become more involved in their children's lives.
2. Enable noncustodial parents and children to participate in supervised visitation, education, and group counseling programs irrespective of marital status and the parties' current living arrangements (e.g., living separately on a permanent or temporary basis).

3. Promote and encourage healthy relationships between noncustodial or joint custodial parents and their children while ensuring the children's health, safety, and welfare.
4. Ensure accessible and available grant-related services statewide for low-income families who are now or have been in family courts.

#### Training and Technical Assistance (TTA)

Training and technical assistance is seen as a statewide delivery of service to provide state and tribal courts (and their local community service providers) with practical skills, specialized knowledge, or training and education to assist in the development of strategies and best practices for establishing a local access to visitation grant program or an effective supervised visitation framework that complies with standard 5.20 of the California Standards of Judicial Administration (Uniform standards of practice for providers of supervised visitation). Technical assistance support may include, but is not limited to, on site, off site, peer-to-peer information exchange, educational resources, and dissemination of information.

#### Court and Community Collaboration

The AOC will promote communication and information sharing among state court systems, tribal justice systems, and local community service providers, bringing together judicial officers, key stakeholders, and multidisciplinary professionals to improve the administration of justice in access to visitation and supervised visitation services.

#### Supervised Visitation Services in California

##### **What is supervised visitation?**

Under standard 5.20(b) of the California Standards of Judicial Administration, supervised visitation is defined as “contact between a noncustodial party and one or more children in the presence of a neutral third person.”

##### **Who is a provider of supervised visitation?**

Family Code section 3200 defines the term provider as including any individual or supervised visitation center that monitors visitation.

##### **What types of supervised visitation providers are available?**

Under standard 5.20(c) of the California Standards of Judicial Administration, supervised visitation providers can be classified as one of the following three types: nonprofessional provider, professional provider, and therapeutic provider.

A *nonprofessional* provider is defined as any person who is not paid for providing supervised visitation services. A *professional* provider is defined as any person who is paid for providing supervised visitation services, or who is an independent contractor, employee, intern, or volunteer operating independently or through a supervised visitation center or agency. A *therapeutic* provider is defined as a licensed mental health professional paid for providing supervised visitation services, including a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a clinical social worker, a marriage and family counselor, or an intern working under the direct supervision of a qualified licensed mental health professional.

#### How to Request Assistance

All requests for training and technical assistance must be submitted through the TTA request form. The form may be submitted by e-mail to [shelly.labotte@jud.ca.gov](mailto:shelly.labotte@jud.ca.gov). You can download the form at:

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/resources/grants/a2v.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/resources/grants/a2v.htm). For additional information about the Access to Visitation Grant Program or to discuss training and technical assistance, please contact:

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#### *Additional resources:*

AOC/CFCC Access to Visitation Grant Program, [www.courts.ca.gov/](http://www.courts.ca.gov/)

Standard 5.20 (Uniform standards of practice for providers of supervised visitation),