



Neutral Ground Solutions

Tips for writing Supervised Parenting Time Agreements and Orders

Please don't....	Because...	Please do....
<p>Call ahead of time to inquire about availability, limit the family to that availability, and assume that those times will be available when parenting time begins.</p>	<p>Providers cannot guarantee their availability or reserve appointment times. Typically, schedules will change in the time between an Agreement or Order being signed and services beginning.</p>	<p>Write into the Agreement or Order some times that are available to the family, but also include verbiage that states that scheduling is based on the provider's availability.</p>
<p>Include a blanket statement that one parent is to pay for all costs associated with supervised parenting time.</p>	<p>Providers typically have their own fee structure that sometimes identify collateral fees. It is important that each parent pays their own collateral fees to maintain both parents' engagement and the supervisor's neutrality in services.</p>	<p>Identify who will be responsible for paying for the hours of parenting time- whether that is one parent or 50/50 split, etc. Please include that all other fees are to be paid based on the provider's service agreement/fee schedule.</p>
<p>Require that the supervisor provides an assessment, recommendation, or determination to change the status of supervised parenting time services.</p>	<p>Providers are neutral, and based on best practices, cannot and will not provide assessments or determine if supervised parenting time services should continue, cease, or change. Once an assessment, recommendation, or determination is made, the supervisor is no longer truly neutral.</p>	<p>Include how the family can move toward unsupervised parenting time- whether that is including a date of a scheduled status hearing, who can request a status hearing, or specific criteria that needs to be met before changing or ending supervised parenting time services.</p>
<p>Indicate that supervised parenting time services be scheduled congruently with Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines.</p>	<p>Oftentimes supervised parenting time service guidelines and the IPTG guidelines conflict. Due to busy schedules and other limitations like safety, staffing, or high costs to families, it is not realistic for supervised parenting time services to be scheduled in line with IPTG.</p>	<p>Provide parameters around frequency, duration, availability and longevity of services. Please include verbiage that states scheduling is based on the provider's availability.</p>

