

\_\_\_\_\_

- ## Basic Visitation Rights

» Legal services are not included in this program.

\_\_\_\_\_



These services are offered through contracts with the Georgia Department of Human Services. Funding is provided by the Administration for Children.



# Access & Visitation





## Our Services

### **Case intake and assessment**

An orientation session dedicated to obtaining case-specific information about the child support case from parents – noncustodial or custodial – to initiate program services.

### **Individual counseling / education session**

An individual session between a case worker and the program participant. This session is dedicated to address potential plans of action to establish safe access to and visitation with their children.

### **Group parenting education**

Group instruction for one or both parents to provide information about legal services, co-parenting strategies, education about the developmental age of children, and healthy coping skills alongside personal accountability and responsibility.

### **Mediations**

The purpose of this session is to create a parenting plan between the custodial and noncustodial parent in order to establish a schedule for visits and/or exchanges of the children from one parent to another.

### **Supervised visitation**

A visitation session observed by a trained professional or social worker.

### **Monitored visitation**

A social worker or trained professional sets up the visitation session and follows up afterward with each parent.

### **Neutral visitation site**

A mutually safe site is provided for visitation exchanges, assuring no direct contact between the parents.

## How does a father legitimate his child?

If the mother consents, an unwed father may sign to establish paternity of his child on the paternity affidavit from the hospital or the Health Department within one year of the child's birth. This process may assist the father in legitimating his child though the court process if the parents were never married to each other.

**Legitimation** is the legal process that fathers use (other than previous marriage to the mother) to establish parental rights to their children who were born out of wedlock. Without legitimation, such fathers have no right to custody or visitation of those children (although the laws say they have the obligation to support them financially).

### **What does "legitimate" mean?**

- **Legitimate:**

If the child was born when the parents were married or was conceived during the parents' marriage and they separated or divorced before the child was born, that child is still considered legitimate. If the parents marry after a child is born, that child is considered legitimate.

- **Illegitimate:**

If the parents were not married when the child was conceived, not married when the child was born, and have not been married since the child was born, that child is considered illegitimate.

For more information on legitimation, visit [georgialegalaid.org/resource/legitimation-1](https://georgialegalaid.org/resource/legitimation-1)