

Visitation Supervision and Monitoring Services

Often in cases involving custody, there is a need for one parent or the other to have supervised visitation, whether that is a breaking in period after an absence, a need for therapeutic intervention or in more serious cases involving addiction or abuse. When such a need arises, the first question often asked is, where do we find a professional, experienced visitation supervisor? And second, where to conduct this visitation other than a parent's home, a park or the ever popular McDonald's playroom.

Ellen Server and Diane Wichman now offer supervised visitation in a safe, family friendly location. Ellen and Diane are not new to assisting families in crisis. In fact, between them, they have 89 years of combined experience working with families and children and enjoy an excellent reputation among the bench and the bar. For many years, Ellen served as Director of North Metro, a psycho-educational facility for troubled youth. Diane spent 20 years as a partner in Choices for Growth, providing hundreds of hours of visitation supervision for both Juvenile and Superior Court cases. Both women have been qualified as expert witnesses in this arena.

Ellen and Diane say, "after all of these years, we realized we weren't finished. So we went to the judges and asked what we could do to be of service to the community." What became clear is the absence of a supervised visitation center in Gwinnett County for families to spend time together in a more natural, safe setting.

The meeting space is located at the Oak Grove Child Development Center in Lawrenceville. "We have 8 rooms, 2 playgrounds, a kitchen, toys and art supplies." There are 10-12 professionals on their roster, all of whom are trained and experienced "quality" people. Says Ellen, "We are very picky about whom we select." Their stable of supervisors is comprised of counselors, case workers, and behaviorists who specialize in children with challenges and high conflict family dynamics.

Ellen is also trained as a behaviorist meaning she can observe family dynamics and then coach the family in behavior modification to lessen and/or arm them with the tools to better deal with conflict. Likewise, Diane is trained to do in home parenting coaching, redirecting and educating parents on the best or better way to parent their children. Other services offered are drug screening and school mediations.

Their fees are reasonable: \$50.00 an hour for supervised visitation; \$65.00 an hour for therapeutic visitation. Since most visits occur on the weekends, their current hours are 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. **You can schedule time or request additional information by calling Ellen Server or Diane Wichman at 678-313-4944.**