What is the Visitation Program?

Adelphoi’s Visitation Program offers opportunities for identified children and their families to bond and build positive relationships in a safe and nurturing setting. The program provides safe reunification and family participation in planning permanency for their child. The “Visit Coaching” model by Marty Beyer, Ph.D. is the primary tool used to engage the family in this process and will be tailored to their needs based on the reason their family is referred to the service. The program works to build on parent strengths and guide to improve parenting.

Program Specifics

As soon as the child is referred to the Visitation Program at Adelphoi, the assigned Visitation Caseworker will begin working with the family. After collaborating with the parents, children, and court officials to assess their strengths and needs, the Visitation Caseworker will orchestrate a visitation plan that works in conjunction with the family service plan and moves the family from the most restrictive to the least restrictive environment for visitation based on their progress. For example, this means the family may begin the program having supervised visits at the visitation center, but as they progress through the curriculum and begin receiving additional identified services, they will be able to have unsupervised visits and will show evidence of being able to cope with the changes in their family in a healthy and productive manner, while keeping their child in the most permanent and safe situation possible.

Referrals and Admissions

Once the referral is received, the Visitation Caseworker will arrange a meeting with the agency staff and/or parents to conduct an intake assessment including the review of any court orders that pertain to the parents’ participation. A service agreement will be developed and formalized in a plan which will be signed by the parents and agency representatives. The plan will note if reports to the referral source are periodically required and the parents and children will receive services as outlined in the plan. The plan will be modified to reflect any new information that would require adjustments or changes to the service provided.

Families and children referred to the program will meet at least one of the following:

- There will be suspected/confirmed child maltreatment, including PFA actions in which a child is the victim.

- There may be a child adjudicated dependent and separated from their parents in an out-of-home placement.
As part of the service, Adelphoi will:

- Conduct various levels of supervised visitation either at a visitation center location, neutral location, or in-home.
- Utilize Visit Coaching Curriculum as a key component of the supervised visitation.
- Meet with the parent (caregiver) before visits.
- Debrief and meet with parents after visits.
- Coordinate transportation for visits, including neutral pick-up/drop off points for visits.
- Conduct conflict resolution meetings/activities between adults.
- Provide parenting instruction.
- Participate in Family Group Decision Making when appropriate to the process.
- Assist and link the family to additional counseling or other types of services if needed.
- Provide documentation including a visitation plan, progress notes, and monthly reports identifying progress on the visitation plan.
- Collaborate with other providers.
- Attend court hearings, and other court or family related activities when required or requested.
- Provide aftercare follow-up related to family progress after service completion.

Visit Coaching Curriculum

The visit coaching curriculum will be the model used in providing instruction and support in plan development and when providing supervised visits. The Visitation Caseworker will implement the model and will include the following:

- Reaching an agreement with the parent about the child’s needs to be met during visits, connected to the risks that brought the child into care.
- Preparing the parents for their child’s reactions and how to plan to give their child their full attention at each visit.
- Appreciating the parent’s strengths in responding to their child and coaching them to improve their skills.
- Supportively reminding the parents immediately before and during the visit of how they plan to meet the particular need of their child/children that are outlined in the plan.
- Helping parents cope with their feelings, and to visit consistently.
Adelphoi is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a continuum of quality services to children, youth, and families. Headquartered in Latrobe, PA, Adelphoi has programs in 30 counties, serving nearly 1,000 youth and families on a daily basis and over 2,500 children annually. Adelphoi’s vast continuum of care includes group homes, a Charter School, foster and adoption services, education programs, mental health services, after-school programs, in-home services, shelter care, multisystemic therapy, and secure care.

Adelphoi has over 700 employees and assists persons and communities in need from over 60 counties throughout the Commonwealth, as well as from Ohio and Delaware. Adelphoi’s mission is to serve communities of need through exemplary and affordable human service programs for children, youth, and families.

For more information, please contact:

Call: 724-804-7000