

Information about Visitation Centers

In some family law cases, there is an absolute necessity to provide neutral territory where children and non-residential parents can have positive interactions in a child friendly atmosphere without exposure to parental conflict.

In this circuit, the visitation center must be court ordered. If the current visitation order (usually a part of a Divorce, Paternity, or Domestic Violence action) doesn't specifically mention the visitation center, it is often necessary to file a motion or petition to be referred to the center. The visitation center will accept a court order from any type of family case, including a Dependency action. If the original case began as a Child Support Enforcement matter in the state of Florida, the issues of parental responsibility/visitation may not be addressed by the Court until one of the parties files the proper petition to add those matters to the existing case. A hearing can be set before a family law judge or general magistrate after pleadings have been properly filed and all court procedures have been properly followed.

After visitation has been ordered through the visitation center, the parents must contact the center to set up an appointment for the intake interview. The parents are not permitted to use the center's services until all intake procedures have been completed. Once intake has been completed and the parents begin to utilize the visitation center, incidents of inappropriate behavior or missed appointments for visitation will be reported to the Court by the center staff.

The visitation center operates only during certain hours, and is equipped to either supervise the entire visitation, or to monitor the exchange of the child(ren) for regularly scheduled visitations. A fee is normally collected from parents who use the program to support the operation of the visitation center. At the Court's discretion, fees to use the center can be waived or assigned to the other party in the case.

PINELLAS COUNTY

The Toby Center
Allendale United Methodist Church
3803 Hines Road North
St. Petersburg, FL 33703
855-862-9236 X1
Contact for hours of operation
Website: <https://www.thetobycenter.org>