

# Your Family Visits at Amara



**Amara will be providing some or all your visits with your child or children.** Your DCYF Social Worker may have provided you with some rules and guidelines about your visitation. The information in this document outlines Amara's guidelines for visits and helps you know what to expect. We will give you a copy of this information for your reference.

## The Basics:

Amara's Phone: 206-260-1700

Amara's Seattle Address: 5907 Martin Luther King Jr. Way South, Seattle, WA 98118

Amara's Tacoma Address: 3501 104<sup>th</sup> Street East, Tacoma, WA 98446

Your Amara Visitation Specialist: \_\_\_\_\_

**Visitation Specialist Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*You can text and call this number**

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## What to Expect at Visits

We hope your time with your children will be a positive opportunity to connect and enjoy each other's company. Please let your Visitation Specialist know if we can help make that happen!

## Your Visit Type

**Supervised** –Your Visitation Specialist must be able to see and hear you and your children at all times. We ask for your assistance in ensuring that you and your child are always within seeing and hearing distance.

**Monitored** —depending on your caseworker this could mean that you must be either in sight or sound of the Visitation Specialist at all times or that the Visitation Specialist is authorized to leave you alone with your child and to check on you periodically (generally every 15 minutes). We will let you know which one applies to you before your first visit.

**Unsupervised**— The visit supervisor will drop your children off with you and return to pick them up at the end of your visit. You will be allowed to be alone with your child during the visitation. Your DCYF Social Worker may set up expectations with you directly regarding what you are able to do, who can be present, and where your unsupervised visits may take place. The Visitation Specialist will ask you for some information at the end of your visit such as: what did your child eat, when was their diaper changed or when they last used the bathroom and were there any injuries or incidents.

*Please Note: Your DCYF Social Worker communicates to us what type of visitation you are approved to have. Any changes in your visitation type must be approved in writing by your DCYF Social Worker*

## Your Visitation Specialist

Your Visitation Specialist's job is to: coordinate visits, supervise at the level set by your DCYF Social Worker, complete reports about each visit, and ensure child safety. They must follow the guidelines set up by your DCYF Social Worker as well as those in this document. Your Visitation Specialist will do their best to not interfere with your visits unless they need to intervene for safety or because you are not following the guidelines.

### Reports:

Your Visitation Specialist is responsible for providing your DCYF Social Worker with a report outlining what happened in each visit. They will provide you with a blank copy of the form they use for your reference. They are always happy to answer your questions about what they are writing down.

Sometimes the CASA or other parties request that we also send them this report directly. If your DCYF Social Worker gives us permission, we are happy to do so.

The child's foster parent or caregiver does not receive this report but they are provided with some basic information to ensure the best care for the child continues after your visit:

- What the child ate and if they slept
- When their diaper was changed or were taken to the bathroom
- If there were injuries or incidents
- Any conversations with the child that may impact their safety and well being

### Safety:

The Visitation Specialist is responsible to ensure the child's safety during your time together. They may end the visit early if they:

- Have reason to believe that you are not sober
- Feel your actions are threatening, aggressive, or frightening to the child or to themselves
  - Your Visitation Specialist is mandated to report suspected child abuse and/or neglect.

### Your Rights:

While your Visitation Specialist has a duty to enforce all visitation rules and protect your child, they also have a duty to treat you with respect at all times. If you feel that you have been treated poorly, please first let the Visitation Specialist know so that they can try and resolve the issue. If you cannot resolve the issue with them, you can ask to speak with their manager by calling (206) 260-1700.

## The Rules

### 1. Please Be on Time

If you are more than 15 minutes late we may cancel your scheduled visit. If you know you will be late and have access to a phone, please let your Visitation Specialist know by calling or texting them at the number above. If you cannot reach them directly you can call the Amara front desk at 206.260.1700.

### 2. Let us Know if You Can't Make It

If you do not show up for a visit, or cancel with less than 24 hours' notice, your DCYF Social Worker will be informed. If this happens three (3) times, Amara may be unable to continue providing this service for your family. Your Visitation Specialist may ask you to confirm by calling or texting by a set time. **If we don't hear from you to confirm by that time your visit will be cancelled.**

### 3. Bring Healthy Meals/Snacks and Diapering Supplies (if needed)

You are encouraged to bring healthy meals/snacks and diapers and wipes for your child(ren). **If you will be unable to provide food or diapering supplies at your visit please let your Visitation Specialist know.**

