

[Courtney Aitken](#) is an experienced Family Lawyer and Senior Associate at OSheaDyer Solicitors, Townsville. She was admitted in 2014 and has practiced exclusively in Family Law. Courtney is also a Collaboratively Trained Family Lawyer.

What is Supervised Time?

When parties separate, there may be good reasons for the children to live with one parent and spend supervised time with the other parent, at least for a period of time. This usually occurs, when there is a concern about the other (supervised) parent's ability to appropriately care for the children (physically and/or emotionally).

Supervision can be undertaken by a trusted relative/adult, an independent person, or a paid person (from an accredited organisation that provides supervision services).

When are Supervised Visits Appropriate?

There are many reasons why supervision may be appropriate. For example:

1. If there are risks to the child in spending unsupervised time.

The risks may be alleged and not proven or may be proven, depending on the family's circumstances and the stage of their case. Some risk factors include:

- a. Drug misuse;
- b. Alcohol misuse;
- c. Violence; or
- d. Mental health issues.

2. If the child has not spent time with that person for some time.

The child may feel more comfortable with a third-party present, to help re-build a relationship.

3. If it may be helpful to the parents to have an independent person (supervisor) report back to them on how the visit went, including how the child coped and what happened during the visit.

This can be helpful where the parents cannot agree on how the child would/is coping with the visits, or if one parent has concerns about the visit. The supervisor can provide a report (usually written) to each parent, to paint a picture of how the visit went.

Supervised Visits can be Organised:

Supervised Visits



Article by Townsville Family Lawyer, [Courtney Aitken](#)

January, 2023

1. With an agreed person as supervisor (for example, a family member or friend as agreed between the parents);
 2. At a private supervised visitation service; or
 3. At a public supervised visitation service, such as Relationships Australia.
-

If you consider supervised visits may be appropriate in your circumstances, our Family Law team can assist you with advice on this, and help you to organise visits.

O'Shea Dyer Townsville has experienced lawyers who practice exclusively in Family Law

Everyone's situation is unique.

We always recommend seeing an experienced family lawyer so you can discuss your situation and obtain customised advice about how this process specifically applies to you.

We offer first appointments with experienced family lawyers for \$220 - a low fixed fee so that everyone can afford to obtain advice about their situation.

We are here to help you.

Call us on 4772 5155 to make an appointment.