

TAAS

THE APPROPRIATE
ADULT SERVICE

Supervised Contact



www.theappropriateadultservice.org.uk

The Appropriate Adult Service offers professional and qualified personnel to supervise contact sessions between parents and children or sibling contacts

TAAS has been providing supervised contact services for over fifteen years, and to date our clients have been local authorities, solicitors firms or private fostering organisations.

We are able to provide services for both private and public law matters

TAAS believes that safe and meaningful contact between parent and child is essential to ensure that children develop mentally, physically and psychologically. By providing a safe and secure environment to facilitate these contacts, TAAS can help to promote the relationship between parent and child, or between siblings.

TAAS can work with the local authorities and solicitors to ensure that demands for supervised contacts are met, and that the service provided is of benefit to all involved, this includes parents, social workers, children, foster parents, siblings and solicitors.

By providing a service that is flexible and accessible to all, we can help to ensure that those who are able to have supervised access to their children can, and at the same time ensure that the vulnerable children are protected throughout their visits.

Our service is entirely independent and impartial and cost effective, offering a safe and effective solution to social workers, parents and children.



Our Comprehensive Supervised Contact Service

All children involved in either divorce, separation or care proceedings benefit from contact with both parents. It is essential that the contact caters for the needs and safety of the child, as well as the needs of the parent.

Particularly in cases where the child is subject to care proceedings, the court needs to satisfy themselves that the parents are able to meet the needs of the child and care for them in an appropriate way. Often the child has been removed from the family home due to suspected abuse, violence or neglect, and it is paramount to the child's welfare that any contact with their parents is supervised.

Family Social Workers can not always be the best people to undertake the supervision, primarily if there is animosity felt by the parents.

Any contact time with the social worker, or representative from social services present can be marred by the destructive relationship between the supervising social worker and the parents.

Parents often seek to blame the social worker for taking their child away from them, and can become violent or aggressive towards the worker. This is detrimental to the child as well as placing the social worker at extreme personal risk.



How The Appropriate Adult Service Can Help

TAAS can provide appropriately trained and qualified independent workers to supervise the contact sessions, and then prepare a comprehensive report to the social worker about the contact session.

All of the activities are always child centred to ensure that the contact is a positive experience. This can happen in a contact centre, can be activity based, or in the parent's home. Ensuring the safety of the child is paramount and TAAS will work in partnership with all the parties to ensure that the contact is a positive experience for all.

TAAS is able to offer multiple supervisors for large family groups.



Our contact supervisors can transport the young person from their foster placement to the designated meeting place, and then return them to the home. This also ensures that the location of the foster placement remains confidential. In addition, the child will benefit from a period of reflection prior to and following each session.

Our supervisors also have the benefit of not knowing the precise details of the individual case, meaning that the contact is supervised in an entirely independent way. Obviously essential information and any potential risks need to be disclosed, but no other case history needs to be known in order to effectively supervise the contact.

Our workers are trained to establish a positive relationship with all parties ensuring that conflict during and after the contact are kept to a minimum.

There can be a number of reasons why contact needs to be supervised



Suspicion of Abuse



Lack of previous contact with the child



Lack of parenting skills due to learning disability



Safety of the child



An Assessment of parenting skills is required



Breakdown of relationship between parent and child which needs to be slowly rebuilt



Contact needs to be in a secure environment due to a violent partner at home



The use of our service means that the contact can be supervised, without the need for social workers to leave their already overstretched workload. It also ensures complete impartiality of reports. Solicitors and Guardians can be assured that the reports submitted are entirely independent.

Our supervisors

Our supervisors have experience in supervising sessions between sibling groups and parent and child meetings. We have worked with a wide range of children from small babies under 6 months to teenagers.

They come from a variety of backgrounds, and most are either undergoing or have completed some form of training in a child care subject, such as NNEB or equivalent. All our supervisors have enhanced CRB disclosures, which include POVA and POCA checks. We have male and female supervisors from various ethnic backgrounds. We are able to supervise contacts in any agreed location across the country.

We do not have our own contact centre currently; however we are able to supervise sessions within the family home, in a public place such as bowling or a fast food restaurant. We are also able to supervise sessions within contact centres, or other pre arranged meeting places.

All our staff undergo a thorough training course before undertaking any supervision sessions alone, and as part of this training course they will accompany experienced supervisors on a minimum of two contacts before being allowed to supervise alone. We will always seek permission from the local authority before sending a trainee supervisor on a contact session.



Wherever possible we will always retain the same supervisors for the duration of the contact sessions to ensure continuity, and enable the children and parents to build up good relationships with the supervisor.

A full contact report including any significant issues prior, during and following a contact session will be written by the supervisor who will observe the interaction between a parent and child, they will then prepare a written report that will be submitted to the relevant social worker shortly after the session. Giving them a clear and precise overview of the session. Partnership working is viewed by TAAS as very significant and to that end TAAS can attend planning meetings and we always ensure that the placing authority is kept fully informed.

The idea of the service is to enable social workers and solicitors to have an insight into the parenting skills, interaction and relationship between parents and child, or those being observed. The amount of detail recorded can be determined on an individual basis. Written reports are significant in that they may provide information which is relevant to a court or some other body in relation to a decision which is of importance to the child or some other person. TAAS can provide either evaluative or factual reports, and will be guided by the local authority in each instance as to which report is required. TAAS can then be called to attend court if required.



Factual reports

Factual reports recount what happened. For example, when contact occurred, whether arrangements were adhered to, and a factual description of incidents.

TAAS recognises that the nature of the supervision required will also vary from case to case. We offer the following levels of supervision:

LOW VIGILANCE SUPERVISION

Appropriate for cases where risk factors are minimal. The service consists of general monitoring and facilitation. The aim is to promote healthy relationships and improve or develop an ability to independently manage contact arrangements. TAAS may work in close cooperation with other services such as counselling services.

VIGILANT SUPERVISION

Subject to intake assessment, this type of supervision may be appropriate in cases involving: high conflict; poor parenting; manageable abduction risk; low risk violence cases; parents with manageable substance abuse or psychological problems. TAAS aims to assist to ensure the safety and welfare of the child; to ensure the safety of the vulnerable parent and to facilitate parent/child interaction during contact.

HIGHLY VIGILANT SUPERVISION

Where contact is to occur where there are more serious risks or difficulties than those noted above. The primary concern is the safety and welfare of the child and of other relevant persons. This type of supervision is resource intensive, highly skilled. Where such cases are undertaken, TAAS closely monitors and facilitates the parent/child contact during the session.

We do not require you to sign any contracts or have minimum levels of usage, the service is “pay as you go” so therefore it is there when you need it, and you are not paying for it when you are not

TAAS has £10 million public and £10 million employer's liability insurance as well as £2 million professional indemnity insurance. We are an ISO 9000 registered company.



Supporting Vulnerable People

We hope you have found the information in this brochure helpful.
If you have any questions at all then please do call us on 0333 2420 400



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