

2A:12-7 to 2A:12-12

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 2A:12-7 to 2A:12-12

**(Supervised Visitation program
- child visitation)**

LAWS OF: 1983

CHAPTER: 424

Bill No: S1466

Sponsor(s): O'Connor and Rodgers

Date Introduced: June 3, 1982

Committee: **Assembly:** Corrections, Health and Human Services

Senate: Judiciary

Amended during passage:

Yes

Amendments during passage
denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage:

Assembly: December 8, 1983

Senate: September 23, 1982

Date of Approval: January 5, 1984

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement:

Yes (Below)

Committee statement:

Assembly

Yes

Senate

Yes

Fiscal Note:

NO

Veto Message:

NO

Message on Signing:

No

Following were printed:

Reports:

NO

Hearings:

NO

Sponsors' statement:

This bill establishes a Supervised Visitation Program to be administered by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

cbc

1-5-84

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

SENATE, No. 1466

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 1982

By Senators O'CONNOR and RODGERS

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT establishing a Supervised Visitation Program.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
 2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

2 a. In the area of child visitation a court often orders supervised
 3 visitation where there has been a history of child abuse, medical
 4 disabilities, psychiatric problems or other situations where the
 5 safety and welfare of the child may be jeopardized.

6 b. Often court ordered supervised visitation never occurs due to
 7 the inability to locate volunteers willing to be present during the
 8 visitation and a facility in which the visitation may take place.

9 c. The inability of a parent or guardian to spend time with a
 10 child poses serious psychological problems to both the parent and
 11 the child and prevents the growth of a normal, healthy relationship.

12 d. The purpose of this act is to facilitate supervised visitation
 13 by making the facilities and members of local community organi-
 14 zations available to assist in court ordered supervised visitation.

1 2. As used in this act:

2 a. "Approved community organization" means a community
 3 organization which applies to the director for participation in the
 4 program and is approved for participation;

5 b. "Director" means the Director of the Administrative Office
 6 of the Courts;

7 c. "Program" means the Supervised Visitation Program created
 8 pursuant to this act.

1 3. There is created a program to be known as the "Supervised

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill
 is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter printed in italics thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

***—Senate committee amendments adopted July 22, 1982.**

2 Visitation Program” which shall be administered by the director.

1 4. The purpose of the program shall be to promote court ordered
2 supervised visitation by having approved community organizations
3 throughout the State supply facilities and personnel to enable
4 supervised visitation to take place.

1 5. The director shall:

2 a. Publicize the existence of the program;

3 b. Adopt rules for the program, including among other things—

4 (1) Standards for approved community organizations,

5 (2) Standards for accounting and auditing, and

6 (3) The number of approved community organizations needed
7 throughout each county;

8 c. Prepare uniform applications for community organizations
9 to apply for participation in the program, which application shall
10 request, among other things—

11 (1) The name, address, county and function of the community
12 organization,

13 (2) The size and location of the facility where supervised visita-
14 tion would take place,

15 (3) The average number of persons available in the facility at
16 any given time who would be present during the supervised visita-
17 tion,

18 (4) The community organization’s fee for use of its personnel
19 and facilities for the program,

20 (5) The number of persons the facility could accommodate at
21 one time, and

22 (6) The general contents of the facility;

23 d. Select and approve those community organizations which
24 comply with the director’s standards and which would accept the
25 lowest fee for participation in the program;

26 e. Prepare a printed list by county of approved community or-
27 ganizations available for participation in the program;

28 f. Distribute the list to each court within the State having juris-
29 diction over child visitation matters;

30 g. Prepare and submit budget estimates of State appropriations
31 necessary for the operation of the program and make recommenda-
32 tions with respect thereto;

33 h. Report annually to the Legislature and the Chief Justice of
34 the Supreme Court on the activities of the program and make
35 recommendations with respect thereto; and

36 i. Do all other things necessary and proper to implement the
37 purposes of this act.

1 6. Any court having jurisdiction over a child visitation matter,

2 which orders supervised child visitation, may direct in the order
3 that the visitation take place at an approved community organi-
4 zation.

1 7. There is appropriated to the program ***[those sums]*** **from*
2 *the General State Fund \$50,000.00 which is** necessary to carry out
3 the purposes of this act.

1 8. This act shall take effect ***[immediately]*** **90 days after*
2 *enactment**.

ASSEMBLY CORRECTIONS, HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1466

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 29, 1982

This bill would establish a Supervised Visitation Program, to be administered by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) that would promote supervised court-ordered child visitations.

The program would utilize the facilities and personnel of approved community organizations in cases where the safety and welfare of the child may be threatened. The Director of the AOC would select and approve the participating organizations and would distribute a list of approved organizations in each county to courts having jurisdiction over child visitation matters.

The Director of the AOC would also be responsible for program publicity, establishing uniform application procedures, preparing budget estimates, and delivering an annual report to the Governor and Legislature on the program.

The bill as amended by the Senate Judiciary Committee, appropriates \$50,000.00 for the program, which would become effective 90 days after the bill is enacted.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1466

with Senate committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JULY 22, 1982

Supervised visitation is often ordered by courts in cases involving child abuse, psychiatric disorders and other situations where the safety and welfare of a child may be jeopardized. There is, however, presently a problem in locating and coordinating organizations willing to undertake these visitations. In order to facilitate supervised visitations, Senate Bill No. 1466 would establish a Supervised Visitation Program to be administered by the Administrative Director of the Courts.

Under the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1466, the director of the AOC would select and approve community organizations which would provide for a fee facilities and personnel to enable court-ordered visitations to take place. The director would distribute a list of approved organizations in each county to courts having jurisdiction over child visitation matters. Under Senate Bill No. 1466, the director is also required to publicize the program; establish uniform application procedures for participation in the program; prepare budget estimates for the program; report annually to the Legislature and the Chief Justice on the program; and adopt any necessary rules.

The Senate Judiciary Committee amendments provide for an effective date of 90 days after enactment and appropriate \$50,000.00 for the program.