

Referral Information

Welcome! If you have been referred to the Whistle Stop for services, this information will help you understand the process of getting started and scheduling visits. Please take a moment to read through the four step orientation procedure.

THE WHISTLE STOP is a program designed to provide a great place for children to visit with non-custodial parents. With safety as the primary goal, we strive to create a comfortable, home-like environment where children eat, play games and talk with their parents. The center also serves as a neutral ground for the safe exchange of children from one parent to the other.

THE WHISTLE STOP staff does not take sides in disputes; rather its role is non-judgmental observation with assistance or intervention given when needed to provide care or safety for the child or parent(s).

ORIENTATION

STEP 1 - CALL. After receiving your referral or deciding to self refer YOU SHOULD CALL The Whistle Stop at (337) 562-2344 to speak with someone about our services.

STEP 2 - After speaking with you and receiving your referral information, an appointment will be arranged for your initial interview. During your interview, you will meet the staff, tour the center and discuss arrangements for visitation or exchange .

STEP 3 - You will be asked to bring any recent court orders and proof of income. If you are the custodial parent, you will also be asked to bring the child(ren) who will be receiving services. They also need to acquaint themselves with the Whistle Stop and the supervisor who will be assisting with the visitation.

STEP 4 - After Orientation is completed, visitation schedules will be arranged. Please understand, scheduling times for visits is based on the availability of space and staff at the center.

COST OF SERVICES

Visitation fees are based on the income of the party responsible for the fee using a sliding scale. To establish the visitation fee, you must bring in last year's tax return and/or your three most recent pay stubs. All income information provided to staff will be verified.

The minimum fee is \$35 per hour, however, we have grant money available at various times throughout the year to pay or supplement the visitation fee. Please remember to ask about this option during orientation.

The cost of Exchange Services is \$10 for a weekend. Exchanges must be scheduled during regular visitation hours.

THINGS TO BRING WITH YOU

When you come for Orientation, you need to bring the following information with you:

1. Any recent court orders or referrals;
2. Two forms of identification;
3. Proof of Income.

BUSINESS HOURS

Business hours are Tuesday through Friday
9:30-4:00

VISITATION HOURS

Visitation hours vary depending on the needs of our clients, but generally, they are scheduled on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.