

**Athens County Children Services
Visitation Policy Agreement**

*PLEASE INITIAL EACH ITEM AS YOU REVIEW THE FOLLOWING LIST
OF VISITATION RULES WITH YOUR WORKER.*

- I understand that all visits are documented even those that I have canceled. I agree to call ahead and give an explanation for canceled visits. I understand that my visit may be canceled if I am later than 15 minutes to my visit.
- I understand that the visitation building is smoke free and I will not be smoking inside the building or rooms. I also understand that I am coming to visit my children and will make an effort to smoke either before the visit begins or after the visit has ended.
- I will first ask my caseworker at least 2 day in advance of my visit before I bring any friends or relatives to a visit. I understand that friends or relatives may be asked to leave if they are not approved.
- I will arrive for my visit 10- 15 minutes ahead of time and leave 15 minutes after the visit has ended.

- I will not use drugs or alcohol before visiting my child(ren). I understand that my visit may be canceled if there is a suspicion that these substances have been used.
- I will not bring any weapons to a visit. I understand that Athens County Children Services security has a right to search for weapons and, if necessary ask that a weapon be taken off grounds or confined in a secure location.

- I will notify my worker before the visit if I or any other visitor with me has lice or any other contagious illnesses. I understand that visits will be canceled if family members or other visitors come to visits with lice.

- I will not follow or harass another party before, during or after a visit.
- I will not talk about adult issues, such as court hearings, with my child(ren).
- I will not question my children about their foster parents whereabouts or activities.
- I will not speak negatively about the child(ren)'s foster parent.
- I will not make promises to my child(ren) about future living arrangements or visitation schedules.
- I will not send any letters or messages to the foster parents through my child(ren).

- If my child(ren) makes any statements or reference to any alleged or confirmed abuse I will not deny their statement and will listen to what they have to say.
- I will not use physical punishment or threaten to use physical punishment with my child(ren) during visits.
- I will follow the suggestions of my workers while visiting with my child(ren).

- I understand that breaking this agreement may result in a change in my visitation schedule.
- I understand that a written account of my visits will be sent to my caseworker.

- I understand and have received a copy of this agreement.

Signature of Parent(s)

Date

Signature of Worker

Date

PLEASE SEE OTHER SIDE

SUGGESTIONS FOR A MORE SUCCESSFUL VISIT

The following ideas will help you have a more pleasant visit with your family. If you have any questions or ideas about the types of activities that you may do at a visit please contact your visitation worker and caseworker to discuss them.

1. Arrive 10-15 minutes earlier than the time your visit is supposed to start. This way you can greet your children and they do not have to wait for you.
2. Sign in and wait in the reception area.
3. Please dress appropriately while you are visiting. Shirts and shoes must be worn at all times. If visits are to take place outside please be aware of the weather and have your child(ren) dressed appropriately. Shoes are to be worn by all children for both indoor and outdoor play. Foster parents will make sure the children come with adequate clothing.
4. Bring all supplies you need for your visit especially if you are visiting young children or a baby that may require a diaper change or feeding. If there is a particular activity that you would like to do with your child please bring supplies or talk to the visitation worker.
5. Food is permitted during visits. If you would like to bring snacks to your visit here are some suggestions:

Juice instead of pop	Sandwiches
Cheese sticks or slices of cheese	Crackers
Fruit and cut up vegetables	Granola bars
Cookies	Popcorn or chips

If your child is on a restricted diet or has allergies please remember to bring food that meets their needs.

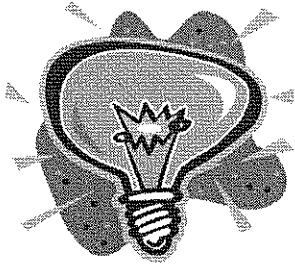
If you would like other suggestions about what to bring please talk to your caseworker or the visitation worker. If you would like to bring a dinner for your children, please tell someone ahead of time so we can make sure you have what you need for preparation. *Families are responsible for all clean up when they bring food items to a visit.* Families do have access to a microwave, sink and refrigerator. There is also a dining area available.

6. Conversations should be positive. Answer questions but do not be negative about the situation and do not discuss legal matters with your children.
7. Spend the entire time with your children. Do not ask to speak to your caseworker during a visit. Arrangements can be made to see your caseworker before or after a visit.
8. **NO PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT OR VERBAL ABUSE ALLOWED.** Ask your visitation worker for help if you are having difficulty with your child. This is the time to learn new methods of disciplining your child. Don't be afraid to ask for help.
9. Saying good-bye at the end of the visit should be fast and positive. It should also be done inside the building if at all possible. Good-byes can be difficult but done in a way that is easier to everyone involved.

All clean up is to be completed by the families. Visitation workers can provide cleaning supplies. Families are expected to clean up their areas after each visit.

If you ever have any questions please ask!!

Snack and Meal Ideas for Visits!



Many visits take place after school or over a period of time when families may get hungry. You may bring your children a snack or a meal to eat while you are visiting. The visit center has a kitchen, microwave and refrigerator for your use. You should bring your own plates, cups and silverware. Families are expected to leave the kitchen area clean after their visit. Here are some favorite snacks and meals for kids:

SNACKS

Pretzels
Cheerios (or other cereal)
Popcorn
Fruit
Fruit Snacks
Trail Mix
Raisins
Yogurt
Crackers
Cheese
Peanut Butter and Crackers
Carrot and Celery sticks
Graham crackers
Cereal bars/Granola bars
Vanilla Wafers
Pop Tarts

SAMPLE MEALS

Beef stew, biscuits, applesauce
Spaghetti/Ravioli, garlic bread, vegetable
Ham, Turkey or Bologna sandwiches, pretzels, yogurt
Prepared casserole, green beans, fruit
Taco meat, cheese, lettuce, tomato, fruit, taco shells
Pizza, apple slices
Hot dog with bun, baked beans, carrot sticks, orange slices
Grilled cheese, broccoli, bananas
Peanut butter and jelly, carrots, applesauce
Corn Dogs, peas, pineapple
Fish sticks, green beans, peaches
Chicken nuggets, tater tots, applesauce
Macaroni and Cheese, applesauce, carrot sticks
Sloppy Joes, corn, applesauce
Chili, crackers, bananas

DRINKS

Fruit Juice Fruit Drink
Milk Water