

CHAPTER 5 – GUIDELINES FOR THE VISITATION OF MINORS IN DEPENDENCY PROCEEDINGS

- A. Counsel who are appointed to represent minors are expected to have a face-to-face visit with the minor(s) at least every six months whether the minor is in home or in out-of-home placement (OOHP). Counsel is expected to contact the child and/or caretaker on a monthly basis, depending on the age and development of the child.
- B. Contact shall include either a face-to-face visit, telephone call, or email with the minor depending upon the age, competency, and preference of the minor.
- C. Visitation/contact may be done by social workers appointed to assist appointed counsel especially in cases involving children ages five and under..
- D. Counsel may choose to contact their client in six-month intervals only if both of the following apply:
 - 1. The minor gets demonstrably upset or destabilized by being reminded of his/her status as a foster child; and
 - 2. The minor has been in a stable placement for over two years.

If this six-month exception is utilized, the minor's attorney must have regular contact with at least two other people (not including the social worker) involved in the ongoing care of the minor, including but not limited to:

- a. Foster parent
- b. Relative
- c. Teacher
- d. Doctor
- e. Therapist