

# DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN VISITATION DISPUTES INVOLVING AND NOT INVOLVING ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLENCE

<b>ISSUES</b>	<b>VISITATION DISPUTES WITHOUT ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLENCE</b>	<b>VISITATION DISPUTES WITH ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLENCE</b>
<b>Central Issue</b>	Promoting children's relationship with visiting parent	Safety for mother and children
<b>FOCUS OF COURT HEARING</b>	Reducing hostilities	Assessing lethality of violence
<b>PLANNING FOR FUTURE</b>	Visitation schedule that meets needs of children	Consider no (suspended) visitation or supervised visitation/transfer
<b>ASSESSMENT ISSUES</b>	Children's stage of development, needs, preferences  Parents' abilities	Impact of violence on mother and children  Father's level of responsibility  Mother's safety plan
<b>RESOURCES REQUIRED</b>	Mediation Services  Divorce counseling for parents and children  Independent assessment/evaluation	Specialized services with knowledge about domestic violence  Supervised visitation center  Co-ordination of court and community services  Lawyers well-informed about domestic violence

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