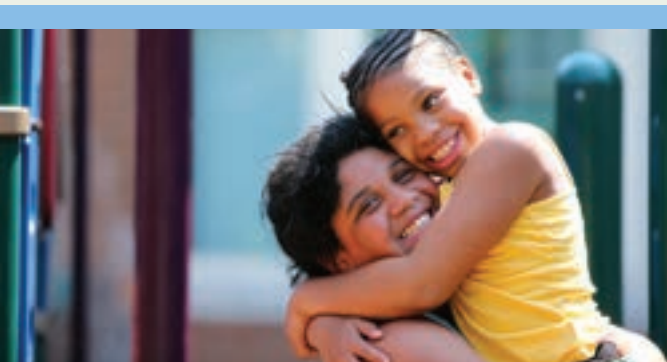


Reasons to Enlist Us

- When separated, divorced, or unmarried parents have a court order for supervised visitation
- When both parents of a family — without a court order — desire these services and agree to follow program procedures
- When a family has a child placed in foster care and is referred by the Department of Children and Families for supervised visits
- When a family has a post adoption or guardianship visitation agreement

Meeting Place Serves:

- Families with concerns about safety because of a history of domestic violence;
- Children whose contact with a parent has been interrupted for a variety of reasons;
- Families where parental conflict is extreme and ongoing;
- Children for whom unsupervised contact with a parent may be unsafe due to a parent's substance use, mental health, or poor judgment, or due to a history of physical or sexual abuse.



About Riverside Community Care

We make a difference in the lives of individuals, families, and communities through innovative and compassionate behavioral healthcare and human services.

A community-based non-profit organization serving more than 40,000 people a year in Massachusetts, Riverside Community Care offers a wide range of mental healthcare, developmental and brain injury services, early childhood and youth programs, addiction treatment, trauma response, and more. And our digital learning platforms extend our reach to more than one million people around the globe, providing tools for education, prevention, and crisis management.

Wherever you are, you can count on Riverside when you or someone you know needs help.

Meeting Place

Supervised Child Access Service
117 Summer Street
Somerville, MA 02143
617-354-2275 x4603
MeetingPlace@riversideecc.org

Riverside Community Care

www.riversideecc.org

MEETING PLACE

Supervised Child Visitation Service



Riverside Community Care

Leading the Way in Behavioral Healthcare & Human Services

About Meeting Place

Meeting Place provides a secure setting for children and parents to interact when there are concerns about the emotional and/or physical safety of a child or their parents during parent-child contacts. Reasons for supervised visits include domestic violence, substance abuse, parental judgment due to mental health issues, child abuse and neglect, or due to the prolonged absence of a parent.

Prior to scheduling any visits, all parents and children are required to complete a thorough intake and orientation process and safety assessment. During visitation hours Meeting Place utilizes trained, unarmed security guards, staggered arrival and departure times for parents, and clearly defined rules and guidelines for all parties at Meeting Place.

Our Staff

All Meeting Place staff have extensive experience working with high-conflict families, child access issues, and domestic violence. Intakes are completed by our clinical staff and visits are supervised by highly trained clinicians and paraprofessionals.

We are thankful to the Riverside Domestic Violence Advisory Council – survivors and community volunteers who provide invaluable guidance and feedback on our domestic violence programs.



On-site Supervision

Meeting Place is open for on-site visits on Monday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Trained supervisors transition the child from one parent to the other and supervise the entire visit in our child-focused visiting rooms. Visits are scheduled for a duration lasting between one and two hours. In appropriate situations and with the agreement of all parties involved, visits can include brief trips away from the site to local playgrounds or stores, with the supervisor remaining present at all times. The closeness of supervision, however, varies according to need. When families are working toward visits that are unsupervised, agreements may include unsupervised time during visits at Meeting Place.

Off-site Supervision

Trained supervisors provide visit supervision away from Riverside Community Care in a location that is safe and convenient for the family and the supervisor. Visits can last for several hours and can occur on any day that a trained supervisor is available. Again, parents will have no contact with each other during these visits. Please note that off-site supervision is appropriate only for those families where there is limited concern regarding the safety of the child.

Supervised Transfers

Trained supervisors transition a child from one parent to the other at the beginning and/or end of unsupervised visits.

Fees for Service

In the absence of a court order or agreement specifying one party's responsibility for the fees, both parents are expected to contribute to the fee, relative to their income. All efforts are made to keep fees at a minimum and to make services available to everyone in need. There are no fees for parents when foster care cases are sent through the Department of Children and Families.

Important Information for Families and Attorneys

Because demand is high, availability of services is limited. If space is available, intake begins within a few days of referral. This process includes separate meetings with each parent and with the child.

Referrals and court orders should specify the following information:

- Length and frequency of visits (up to 2 hours for on-site visits)
- How the costs of service will be apportioned between parents
- Primary visitation concerns