

# **Supervised Visitation Program Annual Report**

Federal Fiscal Year 2024

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#### INTRODUCTION

This annual report on New Jersey's Supervised Visitation Program (the Program) is submitted to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2A:12-11. Prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the report covers the period from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, and presents data collected from supervised visitation programs administered by the AOC's Family Practice Division across participating counties.

The Program was established by the Legislature in 1984 under N.J.S.A. 2A:12-7 et seq., in recognition of the emotional and psychological toll that separation from a parent can have on both children and parents. Its primary goal is to promote and preserve the parent-child relationship while ensuring the child's safety and wellbeing.

Supervised visitation offers numerous benefits to families navigating complex custody situations. For children, it provides a safe, structured environment to maintain meaningful relationships with a non-custodial parent, particularly in cases involving a history of domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health concerns, or high-conflict parental dynamics. These visits help foster emotional stability, reduce anxiety associated with parental separation, and support a child's sense of identity and belonging. For parents, supervised visitation allows continued involvement in their child's life, offering opportunities to strengthen parenting skills and rebuild trust. It also helps reduce conflict between parents by eliminating the need for direct contact during visits.

In addition to supervised visitation, the Program offers neutral exchange services, which facilitate the safe and conflict-free transfer of children between parents at designated locations. These services are especially beneficial in high-conflict or potentially volatile situations, as they reduce the likelihood of disputes during custody exchanges. Neutral exchanges help protect children from witnessing parental conflict, which can be emotionally harmful, and allow parents to adhere to custody arrangements without confrontation. By providing a predictable and consistent process for drop-offs and pick-ups, these

services contribute to a more stable and secure environment for both children and parents.

Since 1997, the New Jersey Judiciary has received annual federal Access and Visitation grant funding to support the Program. These funds assist counties in developing and sustaining services that facilitate safe visitation opportunities for non-custodial parents. Grant allocations are based on each county's demonstrated needs and the number of families served. Currently, 20 of New Jersey's 21 counties participate in the federally funded Program. Bergen County, while not a recipient of these funds, independently offers similar visitation services through local support.

The Program's combination of supervised visitation and neutral exchange services plays a vital role in strengthening family connections while prioritizing safety, consistency, and emotional well-being for children and families across New Jersey.

The Judiciary is committed to promoting effective communication and collaboration among all stakeholders in the supervised visitation process. The statewide program aims to uphold and implement consistent, high-quality practices across the state, focusing on fairness and ensuring the continued availability of essential visitation services.

Michael J. Blee, J.A.D.

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

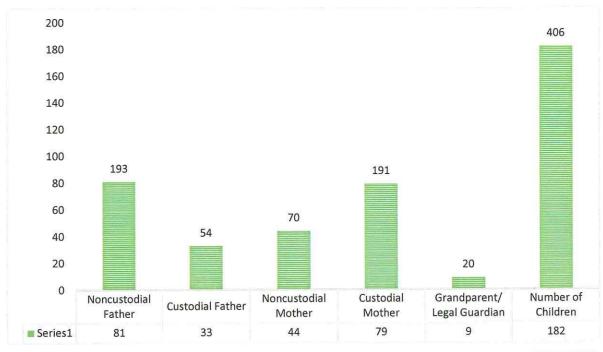
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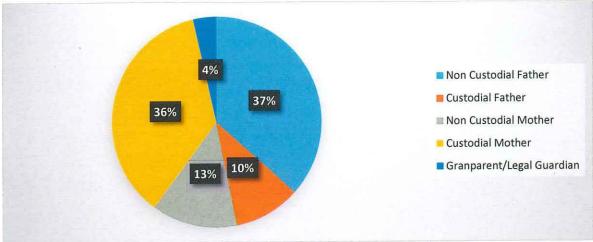
#### SUPERVISED VISITATION STATISTICAL DATA

#### **Client Information**

The Program aims to provide services that support and facilitate noncustodial parents' access to and time with their children. Some of the allowable services outlined in the statute involve the participation of both parents. As depicted in Chart A below, of the 528 parents or guardians that received services, noncustodial fathers represent the largest group served at 37 percent, followed by custodial mothers at 36 percent.

#### Chart A

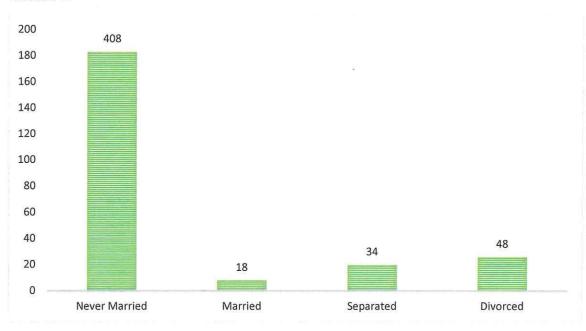


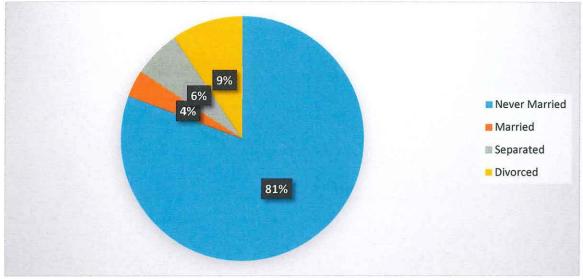


#### **Marital Status of Participants**

Unmarried parents must often navigate multiple, and frequently overlapping, legal proceedings to resolve issues of child support and parenting time. The Program can bridge this gap by offering a reasonable and affordable pathway for noncustodial parents to seek access to and parenting time with their children. As depicted in Chart B below, in the Program overseen by the Judiciary, 81 percent of parents were never married to the other parent.

#### Chart B

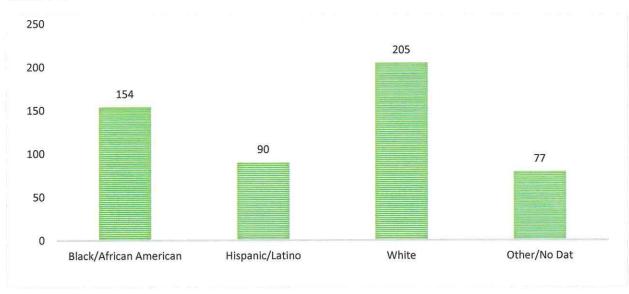


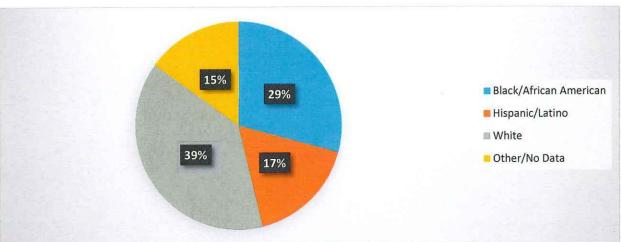


#### Self-Reported Race/Ethnicity

Most participating parents self-identify as belonging to one of three racial or ethnic groups: White, Black/African American, and Hispanic or Latino. Of the 528 parties that received services, the data revealed that Black/African American parents constituted 37 percent of the supervised visitation caseload, white parents constituted 30 percent, and Hispanic/Latino parents accounted for 24 percent of the total caseload. The remaining 9 percent of participants self-identified among the following racial groupings: American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, two or more races, or other/data not reported.

#### Chart C





#### I. Administration of the Program

The following is a description of the New Jersey Judiciary's Supervised Visitation Program.

#### A. Administrator

N.J.S.A. 2A:12-7 <u>et seq.</u> designates the Administrative Director of the Courts as the Administrator of the Program. The legislation sets forth the specific duties and responsibilities of the Administrator, which includes arranging for technical assistance to Program Coordinators in the counties.

#### **B. State Coordinator**

The State Coordinator of the Program, as part of the staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts, serves as the Program's statewide manager, ensuring its compliance with the legislation, Court Rules and the Procedures Manual. The State Coordinator also provides technical assistance to the counties.

#### C. County Coordinators

In each county, a Supervised Visitation Program County Coordinator (hereafter referred to as County Coordinator) manages the Program at the local (Superior Court) level, reviews all cases referred for program participation, schedules sites and volunteers to meet visitation schedules, and submits statistical data to the State Coordinator. The County Coordinator ensures that the screening, training, supervising, and managing of all staff and volunteers in the Program comply with approved standards. County Coordinators report matters specific to the Program to the Vicinage Family Division Manager. (Note: Bergen County is the only county that does not participate in the funded program. However, they also must report matters specific to the program to the Vicinage Family Division Manager.)

#### II. Community Involvement

The Program depends on the involvement of the community in providing this critically needed service, both in terms of volunteers and community sites.

#### A. Volunteers

Volunteers are a key component of the Program. Volunteers provide supervision not only during the day, but also during evenings and weekends so that visitation may occur at times convenient to the families.

The volunteers serve as neutral observers, ensuring the safety of the child; they intervene only when necessary.

All volunteers must complete a training course, which includes a mandatory domestic violence training, before beginning supervision. The County Coordinators conduct the training under the oversight of and with technical assistance from the Administrative Office of the Courts.

#### **B. Community Sites**

Community sites make the Program possible by donating the use of their facilities for the visitations. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:12-7 et seq., the Administrative Director of the Courts must approve all external sites. Sites must be accessible, functional, comfortable, and safe, including adhering to domestic violence safety protocols.

#### III. How the Program Works

#### A. Referral by the Court to the County Coordinator

The court refers matters to the Program. Referral is appropriate in dissolution, non-dissolution, or domestic violence cases where the court is concerned about the physical or emotional welfare of the child and after third-party supervision provisions have been exhausted.

#### **B.** Court Order

The court order should clearly state the duration of supervised visitation, the length of visits, the names of the individuals permitted to attend the visitation, and a date to return to court for determining whether supervision should continue.

#### C. Pre-Screening Interview

The County Coordinator conducts a comprehensive interview of both parties. The purpose of the interview is to gather information and, if appropriate, to arrange a tentative schedule for the visitations. During the interview, the parties are provided a copy of the rules of visitation that will govern each session. In some instances, the interview may reveal issues of concern that call into question the suitability of the case for the Program. In those situations, the judge may reevaluate the matter.

#### D. Role of the observer in the visitation

Each visitation must include an observer. The observer can be a County Coordinator, court staff, or a volunteer. Their role is to serve as a neutral

observer and to monitor closely the visitation, intervening on behalf of the child when necessary. The observer may terminate the visitation session if in the observer's judgment, the rules of the visitation are violated or if continuation of the visit is stressful to the child or threatening to the welfare of the child.

#### IV. Access and Visitation Grant

Since 1997, the New Jersey Judiciary has been the recipient of Federal Access and Visitation grant funds to sustain the Program. The grant requires the funds be used by the states to establish and/or continue programs to support and facilitate non-custodial parents' access to and visitation with their children. In FFY 2024, the New Jersey Judiciary received \$171,356.00 in funds through the Federal Access and Visitation grant. These funds are allocated to the counties based on need and number of children and parents served.

#### V. Appendices

- A. Statistical Data
- B. Supervised Visitation Site List

## Appendix A

#### **Statistical Tables**

This data is required to be reported annually to the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Note: These appendices reflect data only on the twenty counties that accept Program funds. Bergen County provides visitation services with county funds and these are not included in these data

#### TABLE ONE **SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024**

#### **NEW CASES**

This chart reflects the number of new cases added to the Program in FFY 2024.

Country	l Nav. Casas
County*	New Cases
Atlantic	25
Burlington	38
Camden	0
Cape May	0
Cumberland	0
Essex	27
Gloucester	8
Hudson	0
Hunterdon	0
Mercer	46
Middlesex	17
Monmouth	17
Morris	31
Ocean	26
Passaic	29
Salem	0
Somerset	0
Sussex	0
Union	0
Warren	0
Total	264

\*Note: The data includes both Civil Unions and Domestic Partnerships \*\*Note: Bergen County does not participate in the Program.

#### TABLE TWO SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024

#### **CLIENT INFORMATION**

This chart reflects the visitation participants in each county and their relationship with the child.

County*	Non- Custodial Parent Father	Custodial Parent Father	Non- Custodial Parent Mother	Custodial Parent Mother	Grandparent/ Legal Guardian	Children in Common
Atlantic	19	5	5	15	1	37
Burlington	29	3	9	29	6	73
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	17	. 9	10	17	1	44
Gloucester	7	1	1	7	0	10
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	39	4	7	39	3	60
Middlesex	13	3	2	13	1	29
Monmouth	8	9	9	8	0	34
Morris	19	9	12	17	5	41
Ocean	18	6	8	18	2	39
Passaic	23	6	6	22	1	39
Salem	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	192	55	69	185	20	406

<sup>\*</sup>Note: The data includes both Civil Unions and Domestic Partnerships

<sup>\*\*</sup>Note: Bergen County does not participate in the Program.

#### TABLE THREE SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024

#### **MARITAL STATUS\***

This chart reflects the number of visitation participants in each county within the stated categories at the time of entering the Program.

County**	Never Married to Each Other	Married to Each Other	Separated from Each Other	Divorced from Each Other
Atlantic	41	2	0	6
Burlington	60	4	2	4
Camden	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	0
Essex	35	2	12	4
Gloucester	16	0	0	0
Hudson	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0
Mercer	79	6	2	2
Middlesex	25	2	0	6
Monmouth	18	2	4	10
Morris	51	0	2	4
Ocean	38	0	2	10
Passaic	45	0	10	2
Salem	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0
Union	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0
Total	408	18	34	48

<sup>\*</sup>Note: The data includes both Civil Unions and Domestic Partnerships

<sup>\*\*</sup>Note: Bergen County does not participate in the Program.

#### TABLE FOUR SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024

#### **RACE/ETHNICITY**

This chart reflects the number of visitation participants in each county that voluntarily self-identify as the stated race/ethnicity.

County*	Am. Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic Or Latino	Native Hawaiian /Pac. Islander	White	Two or More Races	Data Not Reported
Atlantic	0	0	16	3	0	26	1	4
Burlington	0	2	30	0	0	41	0	3
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	3	25	15	0	2	8	1
Gloucester	0	0	2	0	0	14	0	0
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	0	0	32	26	2	20	2	10
Middlesex	0	0	8	2	0	16	0	8
Monmouth	0	4	6	0	0	24	0	0
Morris	0	0	11	8	0	21	0	22
Ocean	0	0	9	2	0	35	0	6
Passaic	1	1	15	34	0	6	0	1
Salem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	10	154	90	2	205	11	55

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Bergen County does not participate in the Program.

#### TABLE FIVE SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024

#### PARTICIPANTS ANNUAL INCOME

This chart reflects the number of visitation participants in each county that voluntarily identify as having an income within the stated range.

County*	Less Than	\$10,000 -	\$20,000 -	\$30,000 -	\$40,000	Data Not
	\$10,000	\$19,999	\$29,999	\$39,999	and above	Reported
Atlantic	0	0	0	0	0	50
Burlington	0	0	0	0	0	76
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	9	6	4	1	19	15
Gloucester	0	0	0	0	0	16
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	8	11	11	4	2	56
Middlesex	0	0	0	0	0	34
Monmouth	0	0	0	0	0	34
Morris	20	1	2	2	12	25
Ocean	0	0	0	0	0	52
Passaic	0	0	0	0	0	58
Salem	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	37	18	17	7	33	416

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Bergen County does not participate in the Program.

#### TABLE SIX SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024

#### SERVICES PROVIDED

This chart reflects the number of visits funded through the Access and Visitation Grant.

County*	Supervised Visitation
Atlantic	51
Burlington	77
Camden	0
Cape May	0
Cumberland	0
Essex	55
Gloucester	17
Hudson	0
Hunterdon	0
Mercer	93
Middlesex	35
Monmouth	35
Morris	63
Ocean	53
Passaic	59
Salem	0
Somerset	0
Sussex	0
Union	0
Warren	0
Total	538

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Bergen County does not participate in the Program.

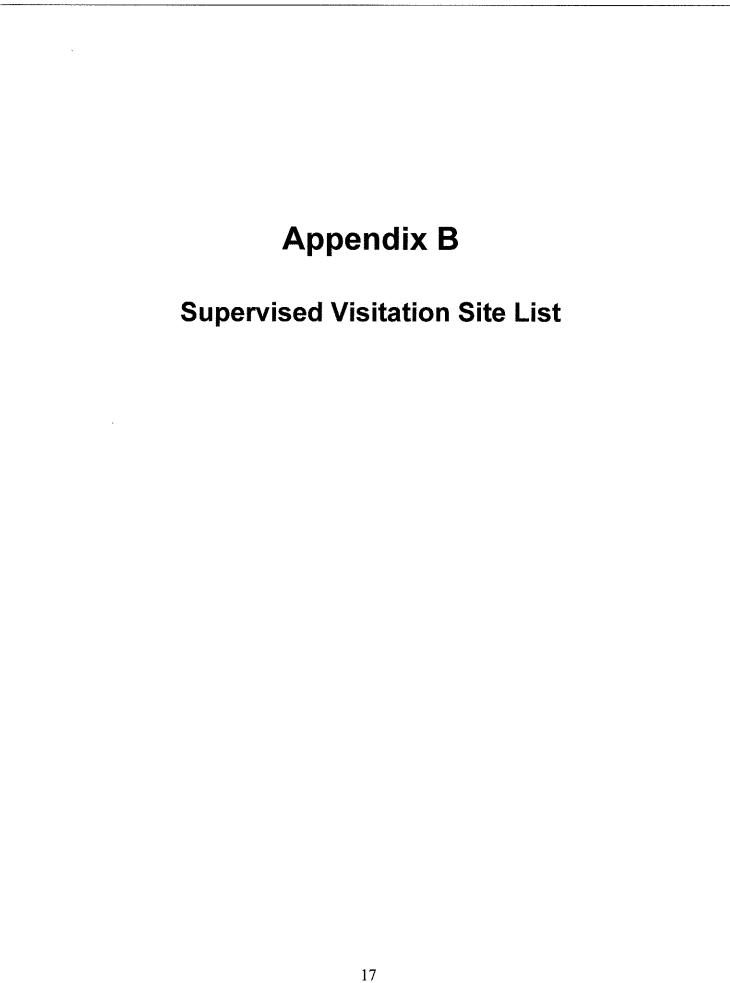
## TABLE SEVEN SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024

#### **CHILD SUPPORT CASES**

This chart reflects the number of parties in the Program that voluntarily identified as receiving or paying child support.

County*	Non- Custodial Parent Father	Custodial Parent Father	Non- Custodial Parent Mother	Custodial Parent Mother	Grandparent/ Legal Guardian
Atlantic	19	5	5	15	1
Burlington	29	3	9	29	6
Camden	0	0	0	0	0
Cape May	0	0	0	0	0
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	17	9	10	17	1
Gloucester	7	1	1	7	0
Hudson	0	0	0	0	0
Hunterdon	0	0	0	0	0
Mercer	39	4	7	39	3
Middlesex	13	3	2	13	1
Monmouth	8	9	9	8	0
Morris	19	9	12	17	5
Ocean	18	6	8	18	2
Passaic	23	6	6	22	1
Salem	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0
Union	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	0	0	0
Total	192	55	69	185	20

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Bergen County does not participate in the Program.



#### **Atlantic:**

#### **Atlantic Family Division AV Coordinator**

Shana Drake, Program Coordinator 1201 Bacharach Boulevard Atlantic City, NJ (609) 402-0100, ext. 47467

#### The Alcove Center for Grieving Children and Families

Mindy Shemtov, Executive Director 376 Tilton Road Rear Northfield, NJ 08225 (609) 727-9335

#### Bergen:

#### Division of Family Guidance

One Bergen County Plaza, Second Floor Hackensack, NJ 07601 (201) 336-7398

#### **Burlington:**

#### **Burlington Family Division AV Coordinator**

Tawanna Brockington, Program Coordinator 49 Rancocas Road Mount Holly, NJ 08060 (609) 288-9500, ext. 38220

#### Catholic Charities (Tuesday/Wednesday evenings; Saturday morning)

Amilia Gallagher, Supervising Monitor 115 West Pearl Street Burlington NJ 08016 (609) 394-5157

#### The Fatherhood Connection (Tuesday evening)

Tashon Jackson, Director Willingboro, NJ 08046 (609) 877-1076

#### Camden:

#### **Camden Family Division AV Coordinator**

Rafael Mendez, Court Services Supervisor 101 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street Camden, NJ 08103 (856) 650-9100, ext. 43516

#### The Center for Family Services

Doris Vidal 584 Benson Street Camden NJ 08103 (609) 463-6645

#### Cape May:

#### Cape May Family Division AV Coordinator

Nicole DiMedio, Court Services Supervisor 9 North Main Street Cape May Court House, NJ 08210 (609) 402-0100, ext. 47566

#### Families Matter, LLC

899 Bayshore Road Villas, NJ 08251 (609) 886-8666

#### Cumberland:

#### **Cumberland Family Division AV Coordinator**

Danixa Molina, Program Coordinator PO Box 866 Bridgeton, NJ 08302 (856) 453-4553

#### Robin's Nest

42 South Delsea Drive Glassboro, NJ 08028 (856) 881-8689, ext. 190

#### **Essex County:**

## Essex Family Division AV Coordinator Essex County Veterans Courthouse

Gloria Brown, Program Coordinator 50 West Market Street Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 776-9300, ext. 55521

#### Gloucester:

#### **Gloucester Family Division AV Coordinator**

Chastity Robinson, Program Coordinator 70 Hunter Street Woodbury, NJ 08096 (856) 878-5050, ext. 15548

#### **Hudson:**

#### **Hudson Family Division AV Coordinator**

595 Newark Avenue Room 218 Jersey City, NJ 07306 (201) 748-4400, ext. 60572

#### **Hunterdon County:**

#### **Hunterdon Family Division AV Coordinator**

Bennett Rymon, Program Coordinator 65 Park Avenue Flemington, NJ 08822 (908) 750-8100, ext. 13836

#### **Mercer County:**

#### **Mercer Family Division AV Coordinator**

Johanny Hart, Program Coordinator 209 South Broad Street Trenton, NJ 08690 (609) 571-4200, ext. 74384

#### El Centro (Catholic Charities)

Robert Hernandez, Director 327 S. Broad Street Trenton NJ 08608 (609) 954-7487

#### **Middlesex County:**

## Middlesex Family Division AV Coordinator Middlesex County Family Court Building

Kathy Fread, Program Coordinator 120 New Street New Brunswick, NJ 08903 (732) 645-4300, ext. 88609

#### **Monmouth County:**

#### Monmouth Family Division AV Coordinator Monmouth County Superior Court

Corinne Manson, Program Coordinator PO Box 1252 71 Monument Park Freehold, NJ 07728 (732) 358-8700, ext. 87198

#### **Morris County:**

#### **Morris Family Division AV Coordinator**

Yolander Hill, Program Coordinator 56 Washington Street Morristown, NJ 07960 (862) 397-5700, ext. 75105

#### **Center for Evaluation and Counseling**

1719 Route 10 East Parsippany, NJ 07054 (973) 829-6960

#### **Ocean County:**

## Ocean Family Division AV Coordinator Ocean County Justice Complex

Karolyn Rivera, Program Coordinator PO Box 2191 120 Hooper Avenue Toms River, NJ 08754-2191 (732) 504-0700, ext. 64503

#### Preferred Children's Services

Stacy M. Welch, Program Director 1200 River Avenue PO Box 2036 Lakewood, NJ 08701 (732) 905-5106, ext. 101

#### Saint Francis Counseling Center

Lori Tomaro, Program Director 4700 Long Beach Boulevard Brant Beach, NJ 08701 (609) 494-8861, ext. 182

#### **Passaic County:**

#### **Passaic Family Division AV Coordinator**

Blanca Bravo, Program Coordinator 77 Hamilton Street Paterson, NJ 07505 (973) 653-2910, ext. 24616

#### **Paterson YMCA**

128 Ward Street Paterson, NJ 07505 (973) 247-8858

#### Salem:

#### **Salem Family Division AV Coordinator**

Angela Thomas, Program Coordinator PO Box 233 Salem, NJ 08079 (856) 878-5050, ext. 15881

#### Somerset County:

#### **Somerset Family Division AV Coordinator**

Christine Reilly, Program Coordinator 20 North Bridge Street Somerville, NJ 08876 (908) 332-7700, ext. 13486

#### **Catholic Charities**

Esther lannetta 540 Route 22 East Bridgewater, NJ 08807 (908) 722-1881

#### **Sussex County:**

#### **Sussex Family Division AV Coordinator**

Lori Reich, Program Coordinator 43-47 High Street Newtown, NJ 07860 (862) 397-5700, ext. 75194

#### First Baptist Church (NJCCR), (Neutral Exchange Only)

4 East Main Street Sussex, NJ 07461 (973) 875-9451

#### Center for Evaluation and Counseling

1719 Route 10 East Parsippany, NJ 07054 (973) 829-6960

#### **Union County:**

Union Family Division AV Coordinator Union County Superior Court

Nancy Little, Program Coordinator New Annex Building Elizabeth, NJ 07207 (908) 787-1650, ext. 21314

#### Warren:

**Warren Family Division AV Coordinator** 

Justine McDonald, Program Coordinator 413 Second Street Belvidere, NJ 07823 (908) 750-8100, ext. 13209

Catholic Charities
Phillipsburg Family Service Center

Susan Reimer, Supervisor 700 Sayre Ave. Phillipsburg, NJ 08865 (908) 454-2074

#### STUART RABNER CHIEF JUSTICE

## MICHAEL J. BLEE, J.A.D. ACTING ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS

JASON CORTER DIRECTOR, TRIAL COURT SERVICES

JOANNE M. DIETRICH ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FAMILY PRACTICE DIVISION

