



Criteria for Lethbridge Safe Visitation Program

- ❖ **Is there a history of family violence between the custodial parent and the visiting parent?**
- ❖ **Is there an ongoing threat of family violence occurring between the parents?**
- ❖ **Will the children be subjected to further exposure to family violence without safe visitation? This may include witnessing verbal arguments, threats, or physical altercations between the parents, or inappropriate comments, gestures, etc., during a visit by the visiting parent.**

The answer to all three of these questions must be yes before a referral to the safe visitation program is made. Also, it is important to understand that participation in the program is absolutely voluntary for both parents as well as the children. Even if there is court ordered supervised visitation, the safe visitation program takes no role in compliance with the order if one party chooses not to comply.

Contact the Safe Visitation Coordinator at 403-329-0088 for inquiries and/or to schedule an appointment. Once the intake is completed, the referral is sent to the Regional Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Coordinator for approval. Approval is based on the severity of the family violence (both historically and ongoing) and the level of risk to the children. Both parents will then be contacted by the Safe Visitation Coordinator to schedule visits.

During the intake appointment with the Safe Visitation Coordinator, the program, rules and expectations are all discussed in detail. If clients feel they cannot commit to any aspect of the program, the intake documentation will not be processed any further.

Additionally, if at any time during participation in the program, custodial or visiting parents are not adhering to the rules or protocols, services may be withdrawn at the discretion of the YWCA.