

Sec. A. SUPERVISED VISITATION PROGRAM

(a) In fiscal year 2027, \$137,500 of General Fund that has historically been distributed to the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services for supervised visitation shall be transferred to the Department for Children and Families. These General Funds shall be combined with \$100,000 of federal funds allocated by the Office of Child Support for the same purpose. Together these consolidated funds amounting to \$237,500 shall be distributed from the Department for Children and Families to Supervised Visitation programs.

(b) In fiscal year 2027, \$249,300 [transferred from CHINS Special Fund to Judiciary] is appropriated to the Department for Children and Families for distribution as follows:

(1) \$199,300 shall be distributed to six existing community-based supervised visitation sites and the remainder shall be used for start-up funding for two additional sites in counties where programs do not currently exist to become operational January 1, 2027.

(2) \$50,000 shall be allocated by the Department for Children and Families to the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence for a statewide supervised visitation coordinator who shall initiate a needs assessment to assist in development of a sustainable coordinated system with equitable access to supervised visitation statewide. The coordinator will work with the Department of Children and Families to develop a funding formula for supervised visitation sites, identify the community partners to develop two new supervised visitation sites during fiscal year 2027 and begin planning for creation of four additional supervised visitation sites, two each to become operational beginning in fiscal years 2028 and 2029.