

Is there a fee?

There is a \$25 registration fee from each parent and a \$10 exchange fee from each receiving parent.

Weekend exchange centers:

Newcomb Presbyterian Church
2619 N. Division Street
Davenport, Iowa

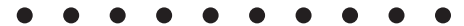
First Baptist Church
3020 30th Street
Rock Island, Illinois

Neutral exchange occurs on Friday evening, with return on Sunday evening. Additional times available by appointment and mutual agreement.



Safe Connections

A neutral exchange process for disputing parents who wish to increase visitation with their children



1830 6th Avenue
Moline, Illinois 61265

Karen Relf

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Safe Connections is funded by:
United Way of the Quad Cities
Iowa Department of Human Services

Safe Connections



A safe place, a safe process

Safe Connections provides a neutral exchange site with a third party who are the “go-between” from one parent to the other.

Safe connections offers help for:

- Children who are experiencing separation from one parent
- Non-custodial parents who wish to increase visitation with their children
- Parents who wish to improve communication with each other for the best interest of their children.

What types of services are provided?

Safe Connections provides the following services:

- Neutral drop-off and pick-up sites
- Mediation services
- Visitation counseling
- Supplemental services through other Bethany programs
- Referrals to other community resources

Supplemental services include:

- Counseling to address the emotional and psychological issues that come with separation or divorce
- Development of parenting skills
- Awareness of child development stages
- Development of appropriate parent-child boundaries.



How it works:

On the Friday of an exchange weekend, the custodial parent brings the child/ren to the exchange location. A staff person walks the child/ren to the non-custodial parent (who arrived ten minutes earlier than the custodial parent) at another location in the building so parents do not have contact with each other.

The child/ren and the non-custodial parent leave immediately, while the custodial parent waits a designated ten minutes before departing the exchange site. At no time during the exchange do parents have contact with each other. Further, the start and leaving times ensure no contact between them.

The process is reversed on the Sunday of an exchange weekend as child/ren are returned to the custodial parent’s care.

Benefits

Safe Connections provides parents with crucial tools that can help them deal with each other and with their children.

Through education and skill building, parents are able to understand and appreciate the emotional turmoil a child undergoes during a custody dispute.

This service is necessary for both the parent and the child to form relational bonds which can be lost in a custody battle.

Children cope better with the emotional aspect of separation and divorce if they are able to maintain contact with both parents, and parents are able to provide more emotional support.

Contact information:

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Keeping kids *safe* and *helping* parents *care* for their children for 110 years