

1.4 - DEFINING SAFETY, NEUTRALITY AND CHILD-FOCUS

SAFETY:

- SEC's Supervised Parenting Time Centres provide for the physical and emotional safety and security of all participants (child and adult), staff, and communities
- Safety is demonstrated through:
 - Staff screening and training
 - Thorough intake and orientation of client families
 - Clear and informed contracting with participants
 - Safe and accessible facilities
 - Close liaison with local law enforcement and fire department
 - Written policies and procedures that are consistently followed
 - Directing parties to other appropriate services by providing resources and referral information about other services availability in the community.
 - Having written policies and procedures that aim to prevent the re-victimization of child and adult participants

NEUTRALITY:

- In Supervised Parenting Time "neutrality" refers to fairness and balance. SEC is never neutral about safety.
- Neutrality is demonstrated through:
 - Respectful treatment of all participants
 - Not taking sides with either party
 - Not advocating on behalf of one party
 - Providing copies of requested observation reports to both parties and/or their lawyers at the same time regardless of who requests them
 - Consistent application of SEC's policies and procedures
 - Staff training, debriefing, and supervision
 - Acknowledging and avoiding conflicts of interest
 - Not providing recommendations or assessments, only factual observations
 - Having a setting and service that is non-stigmatizing and accessible to people in terms of their physical, cultural and socio-economic status and is flexible where possible to providing an environment that is sensitive to the diverse needs of the community.

CHILD-FOCUS:

- SEC's Supervised Parenting Time Centres provide children with a safe secure setting that facilitates contact with visiting parents or other adults such as grandparents through visits or exchanges when there are safety concerns.
- Child-focus is demonstrated through:
 - Child orientation that prepares children for attending Supervised Parenting Time
 - Listening to children's needs and concerns and addressing them where possible
 - Adult orientation
 - Staff training
 - Facilities that are geared to children's comfort and activities

- Providing an environment that is sensitive to the child's physical, emotional and cultural needs, where possible
- Policies for child refusal that help prevent re-victimization of children