



## TRANSPORTATION AND VISITATION

Children and families with education, mental health and family support needs are searching for a better quality of life. Wesley Spectrum Services helps them to become independent, responsible and caring members of the community by providing an array of high quality special education, mental health and family services. These services give children and families the strength to learn, to live and to love, resulting in stronger families and stronger communities.

### Philosophy and Purpose

Parents want to do what is best for their children, but family integrity can be threatened by unemployment, poverty and stress or challenged when a child is aggressive or emotionally disturbed. When children are removed from the home, family visits are often required before it is safe for the child to return. Wesley Spectrum's Visitation/Transportation program helps make visits possible and more beneficial. We draw on the strengths of the family to show them how to care for one another.

### Eligibility

A family must be involved in Children and Youth Services or Juvenile Probation in either Westmoreland or Somerset counties. Children between ages 0 to 21, who are placed outside their homes, are eligible. Families do not have to be receiving other Wesley Spectrum Services to use the transportation program.

### Availability

Family visits are required at least twice a month. If space is not available, we will work with the case worker or juvenile probation officer to determine what is best for the family, to wait for services through Wesley Spectrum or be referred elsewhere.

### Referral

Children who are placed outside the home are referred through a children's services agency or county juvenile courts, either by caseworkers or probation officers. While visits are required by the courts, using the transportation services is optional.

### Intake

When children are removed from their homes, a case worker or probation officer will call requesting supervised visits between one to 20 hours a week. After a child's case is referred to us, an intake coordinator will review the child's situation to determine what services will meet the family's needs.

### Funding

Wesley Spectrum Services contracts with the county to fund our services; there is no charge to families.

### Accreditation and Licensure

Wesley Spectrum is accredited through the Council on Accreditation and licensed by the Department of Public Welfare. Our culturally diverse, highly experienced staff receives continuous training and supervision in order to insure that they deliver services in a manner that is respectful and sensitive to cultural differences. Para-professionals employed by Wesley Spectrum provide transportation and monitor non-therapeutic visits.

### Treatment Approach

Most families do the best they can, using their strengths and available resources and supports. Wesley Spectrum respects the integrity of each family, helping them work from their strengths, rather than focusing on weaknesses. We facilitate reunification through Visitation/Transportation services. Without transportation visits may not occur, keeping families apart and preventing children whom are out of placement from having quality relationships.

### Services

To help families heal and come together, children who are removed from their homes have supervised visits with their parents. Wesley Spectrum encourages reunification by providing rides to medical and court appointments as well as transportation to family visits. During non-therapeutic visitation sessions, skilled counselors monitor help parents and their children improve family communication and aid relationship building.

These services may be offered in conjunction with other in-home family therapy services. We can also help families with support for housing, food and other basic needs, and offer connections with schools, community resources and other human service agencies.

### Outcomes

With each family, we assess the number of visits provided, and how these services helped the family complete its service plan. We also conduct satisfaction surveys with both the child and parents. At that time, we assess if the family needs additional services, or readmission for further services.



*Strength to learn, to live, to love*

### Discharge

When a child has returned home, or has completed the recommended number of visits, the family is discharged from the program. The unified family should be ready to care for the children and meet its ongoing needs, operating from a base of wholeness and strength.

### Aftercare and Follow Up

At the time of discharge, we assess if the family needs additional services. If needs exist an aftercare plan is developed which specifies what services are recommended. We do not provide any after care or follow up services in this program. When the child is returned home, our service ends. If the family needs other services, those are addressed by the referral source in the family's service plan.

### Contact Information

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