



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

LAKE COUNTY RECEIVES GRANT MONEY FOR FAMILY VISITATION AND EXCHANGE CENTER

Lake County recently received notification from the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women that their application for funding a Family Visitation and Exchange Center had been approved. The request for the grant money to provide a Center was a collaborative effort supported by Lake County, A Safe Place, and the 19th Judicial Circuit. The funding, made under the Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Exchange Program, amounts to \$395,984 and will be disbursed over a 36-month period in accordance with the terms under the grant agreement.

The purpose of a Family Visitation and Exchange Center here in Lake County is to provide a secure place for parents to exchange custody and/or for children to visit with their non-custodial parents in situations where the court has determined that restricted visitation is necessary to protect a child's safety and that of the custodial mother, as in cases of domestic violence. The Center will provide visitation and exchange services for low to moderate income families and underserved families. Services in Spanish will be offered.

"The Center will provide a safe environment for supervised visitation and exchange of children who have been victims of abuse," said Judge Jane Waller, Presiding Judge of the Family Division. "We are thrilled to be able to move forward in the development of this new program."

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