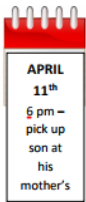


WHAT COUNTS AS A DENIAL OF VISITATION?

If you want to enforce your visitation order and ask the court to hold the other parent in contempt, there are very specific rules you must follow when you try to exercise your visitation.

You are not technically denied visitation unless you actually **appear in person at the pick-up location listed in your court order**, even if the other parent has already told you that he/she will not be there or that he/she will not be giving you your child. By not producing the child at the pick-up location at a certain date and time, the other parent is violating the court order. However, that parent cannot be required to testify against himself/herself in court, so **you have to be able to testify that you were there and he/she was not.**



Step 1: Look at your court order or a calendar prepared for you by your attorney. Find the next exact date and time that you are supposed to pick up your child.

Step 2: Arrive at the pick-up location at the exact date and time you are supposed to be there. Give yourself plenty of time to get there. If you are early, wait a few minutes.



Step 3: Knock on the door. Wait. Knock on the door again. You must give some indication that you are there and are ready to pick up your child.

Step 4: Try to obtain evidence that you were at the right location at the right date and time. You can take a witness with you to observe what happened. You can go to a nearby convenience store or fast food restaurant and buy a drink or a pack of gum, and keep the receipt showing you were in the area at a certain date and time. Some police departments may be willing to file a report for you.



Step 5: Immediately write down what happened in your visitation journal. Write down the date, time, and place where you tried to pick up your child. If you have a witness, write down his/her name. If you have a receipt or other evidence, keep it safe.