

## Memorandum in Support

### COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND THE LAW

June 9, 2025

S.3938-A

By: Senator Hoylman-Sigal

A.65-A

By: M. of A. Hevesi

Senate Committee: Finance

Assembly Committee: Rules -Third Reading

Effective Date: Immediately

**AN ACT** to direct the Office of Victim Services, in consultation with the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, to establish a statewide supervised visitation initiative including culturally sensitive services that provide language access for those who need it and that are affordable for those with limited means to pay; requires the submission of regular assessments and reports.

**LAW AND SECTIONS REFERRED TO:** Add §398-f, Soc Serv L

The New York State Bar Association's Committee on Children and the Law (the Committee) supports this bill, which concerns an ongoing threat to the safety of children and families in crisis due to the lack of safe, affordable, and accessible supervised visitation and exchange programs throughout New York State. Dedicated state funding is essential and needed immediately to support safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable supervised visitation programs in every county in New York State.

Those on the Committee who practice in Family and Supreme Courts see that there is a gap in funding for supervised visitation for custody matters in the courts that are not attendant to an abuse/neglect proceeding. There are many custody cases involving domestic violence in the Family Courts, Supreme Court matrimonial cases, and in the Integrated Domestic Violence Courts, where there is a complete lack of these resources or a significant lack of resources to meet the demands of the community to keep children safe. The remainder of cases referred to supervised visitation involve one or both parents with substance abuse, mental illness issues and/ or alleged or confirmed child abuse and neglect. Safe, accessible, supervised visitation programs focusing on the safety and welfare of the children and parents are critical for families facing these issues.

In 2022, the NYS Office of Court Administration's Office for Justice Initiatives established the Working Group on the Future of Supervised Visitation in New York State (Working Group) to gather information on this long-standing problem.<sup>1</sup> This Working Group, in July 2023, issued the Report from on the Future of Supervised Visitation in New York State. The Report was updated in May 2025 to include the listing of available supervised visitation programs in each county New York State. Since the committee's initial report, 32 counties do not have access to this vital resource.

For the above reasons, the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Children and the Law **SUPPORTS S.3938A/A.65A.**

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<sup>1</sup> [Report from NYS Working Group on Future of SV in NY](#)