

# California Office of Supervised Visitation Oversight (COSVO)

Draft Bill Language — 2025–2026 Regular Session

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## SECTION 1. Short Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the “California Office of Supervised Visitation Oversight Act of 2025.”

## SEC. 2. Legislative Findings and Declarations.

The Legislature finds and declares that supervised visitation services are frequently ordered by courts to protect the safety and welfare of children and parents during periods of high conflict or risk. California lacks a statewide licensing and oversight structure for professional supervised visitation providers. Establishing a uniform, enforceable regulatory framework is necessary to promote child safety, protect the integrity of court orders, and ensure professional standards and accountability.

## SEC. 3. Definitions.

Term	Definition
“Agency”	means the California Office of Supervised Visitation Oversight (COSVO) created by this act.
“Professional supervised visitation provider”	means any individual or entity that offers supervised visitation services for compensation, other than a nonprofessional provider as defined by California Rules of Court, rule 5.20.
“Licensee”	means a professional supervised visitation provider holding a valid license issued by the Agency.
“Board”	means the governing board of the Agency, if constituted pursuant to this act.
“Live Scan”	means a fingerprint based state and federal criminal offender record information background check.

## SEC. 4. Establishment of the Agency.

(a) There is hereby created within the California Health and Human Services Agency the California Office of Supervised Visitation Oversight (COSVO). (b) The Agency shall be headed by an Executive Director appointed by the Governor, subject to Senate confirmation, for a four year term. The Legislature recommends Gor Gevorkyan for appointment as the Founding Executive Director based on his advocacy and expertise. (c) The Agency may constitute a five member advisory board appointed by the Governor, the Senate Rules Committee, and the Speaker of the Assembly.

## SEC. 5. Powers and Duties.

- Adopt regulations to implement this act.
- Issue and renew licenses for professional supervised visitation providers.
- Maintain a public registry of licensees and final disciplinary actions.
- Conduct audits and inspections of licensees.
- Investigate complaints and ensure timely resolution.
- Impose administrative penalties and seek injunctive relief when necessary.
- Refer matters for criminal prosecution where appropriate.
- Collect and expend fees; manage the Supervised Visitation Oversight Fund.
- Enter into interagency agreements with the Judicial Council, CDSS, DOJ, and local governments.

## SEC. 6. Licensing Requirements.

(a) Beginning 12 months after the effective date, no person shall act as a professional supervised visitation provider unless licensed by the Agency.

(b) Initial licensure requires: (1) age 21 or older; (2) Live Scan background check with ongoing arrests/convictions notification; (3) proof of liability insurance with minimum \$1,000,000 aggregate coverage; (4) completion of at least 24 hours of initial training consistent with rule 5.20; (5) current CPR/First Aid certification; (6) attestation to the Agency's Code of Ethics; and (7) for active providers, a negative hair follicle drug test within 30 days prior to application.

(c) Renewal. Licenses shall be renewed annually upon: (1) completion of 10 hours of continuing education; (2) quarterly negative hair follicle drug test results for any quarter in which the provider supervised a client; (3) affirmation of compliance with recordkeeping and reporting rules; and (4) payment of applicable fees.

## SEC. 7. Fees.

(a) The Agency shall collect the following fees: (1) \$1,200 annual licensing fee; (2) \$600 annual fee for approved low income providers upon documentation of financial hardship as defined by regulation; (3) \$100 per month late renewal penalty; (4) \$50 duplicate license fee.

(b) Fees shall be deposited into the Supervised Visitation Oversight Fund, which is hereby created in the State Treasury and continuously appropriated to the Agency.

## SEC. 8. Enforcement; Penalties.

(a) Unlicensed practice. Any person who provides professional supervised visitation services without a valid license is subject to an administrative fine of \$5,000 for a first violation, \$10,000 for a second violation and public notice, and \$15,000 for a third or subsequent violation and permanent disqualification from licensure.

(b) The Agency may order immediate cease and desist, suspend or revoke a license, and seek injunctive relief in superior court.

(c) Willful or egregious violations presenting risk of harm may be referred to the district attorney for misdemeanor prosecution.

## SEC. 9. Whistleblower Program.

The Agency shall establish a verified reporting program. A person whose report results in a sustained enforcement action may receive a \$250 award, subject to regulations.

## SEC. 10. Complaint Process; Public Registry.

(a) The Agency shall operate a secure online complaint portal and publish investigation timelines and outcomes consistent with privacy laws.

(b) The Agency shall maintain a public, searchable registry of licensed providers and final disciplinary actions.

## SEC. 11. Data Protection.

All records containing personal information shall be collected, stored, and disclosed in compliance with the Information Practices Act of 1977, the Public Records Act, and any applicable federal privacy requirements. The Agency shall adopt data minimization and retention schedules.

## SEC. 12. Coordination with Judicial Council.

The Judicial Council is requested to adopt or amend rules to recognize COSVO licensure as the standard for professional supervised visitation providers and to prohibit appointment of unlicensed providers after the operative date.

## SEC. 13. Regulations.

The Agency may adopt emergency regulations to implement this act. Emergency regulations shall remain in effect until replaced by permanent regulations.

## SEC. 14. Appropriation.

The sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency for startup and first year operations, to be repaid by fee revenue thereafter.

## SEC. 15. Operative Dates.

- (a) This act becomes effective January 1 following enactment.
- (b) The licensure requirement in Section 6 becomes operative 12 months after the effective date.

## SEC. 16. Severability.

If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.