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PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Contact:
Judge Susan Kushner**

**Hon. Thomas A. Breslin
Administrative Judge
Third Judicial District**

Date: May xx, 2019?

Free, Supervised Parenting Program Now Available to Albany Family Court Litigants in Custody Disputes

Albany, New York – Hon. Thomas Breslin today joined Albany County Family Court officials to announce an initiative to provide free, supervised parenting time to families involved in custody disputes. The County’s Sheriff’s Office will be donating \$10,000 in crime forfeiture funds to support the program, which will be administered by St. Catherine’s Center for Children in Albany. The program will be offered when a custody or family offense proceeding has been brought in Family Court and the Court must decide if a parent, due to substance abuse or other issues, should have only supervised access to the child.

Supervised parenting time provides a safe, secure and comfortable setting for the parent and child—and peace of mind to the custodial parent that the interaction is being properly managed. The Court receives a report of each visit, offering insight into the parent-child relationship and enabling the Court to make informed decisions.

“I want to express my immense gratitude to Albany County Family Judge Susan Kushner for her tireless efforts to restore this free service, which had lost its state funding, and to Albany County Sheriff Craig Sheriff for his generous support of this important program,” said Judge Breslin.

Stated Judge Kushner, "Without this program, the Court may have to suspend parenting time, which may cause further breakdown of the family relationship. Alternatively, the Court would be looking for the parents to agree on an appropriate relative or friend to supervise, which they are often unable to do, or require that the visits occur in a public place."

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