

**DEFINITION OF TERMS
REGARDING CONTACT WITH MINORS
Provided by Maricopa County Adult Probation**

A minor or child is defined as anyone **under eighteen (18) years old**. Any form of proximity contact is prohibited. Contact can mean several things:

1. Actual physical touching.
2. Association or relationship: taking any action which furthers a relationship with a minor such as writing letters, sending messages, buying presents, etc.
3. Communication in any form is contact. This includes verbal communication such as talking, or written communication such letters, etc. This also includes non-verbal communication such as body language, (waving, gesturing) and facial expressions, such as winking.

In Public: Minor not known:

If you are in a public place such as a shopping mall, grocery store, church, movies, park, arcade, etc., and you encounter a child whom you do not know, just do not imitate contact. Do not pay attention to the child; do not look at the child; do not talk to the child; no communication at all, verbal or non-verbal.

All efforts should be made to minimize such contact with minors whom you do not know by timing visits to public places when minors are least likely to be present. Example: Do not go to Saturday afternoon matinee movies where children are most likely to be present. If a minor is still encountered, do not initiate any communication, verbal or non-verbal.

If a minor initiates communication, tell them you cannot help them, politely refer them to somebody else and immediately move away from the area. If the minor persists in trying to communicate, the offender needs to leave the public place.

In Public: Minor is known:

If you are in a public place and you encounter a minor whom you know, all efforts should be made to make sure the child does not see you. Then you need to leave the public place immediately. It is **not** appropriate for you to put the responsibility on the minor to avoid communication. If the victim is encountered, leave immediately; then contact your probation officer or surveillance officer.

Non-Public: Minor known and/or not known:

If you are in a private area such as your house, a friend's house, club, etc., and a child is present, whether you know the minors or not, you must leave immediately. If you are in a private area and a child comes in, you must leave immediately.

Direct Contact Is: One-on-one contact with a minor:

This includes in-person visits, touching, talking on the phone, letters or written notes, making proximity contact with a minor.

Indirect Contact Is: Making contact with a minor through another person:

This includes asking the mother, teacher, or a friend to tell a minor something, or to have a minor answer questions, send pictures, deliver or receive packages, gifts, or money.

Supervisor:

This is a person who has been approved by the probation officer to supervise a contact between a minor and an offender. The approval **must** be in writing, and be obtained prior to any supervised contact. The probation officer and the judge are the only people who can approve a person as a supervisor; your counselor or attorney **cannot**.

Supervisors must be adults who know the details of the offense, the offender’s cycle, risk situations, conditions of probation, and agree to monitor the situation and report violations to the probation officer.

Supervised Contact:

This is when an offender is allowed to have contact with a minor under prearranged conditions and times. The conditions must be approved **in writing** prior to the contact. The approval is by the probation officer or judge only. Any changes must be in writing by the probation officer. Supervised contact **always** requires a pre-approved supervisor. This **never** means just another adult is present.

Never place the responsibility on the minor to avoid contact. When in doubt, terminate contact. Then call your probation officer and request more information.

I have read and understand the above definition of “no contact.”

Signature of Probationer Date

Signature of Probation Officer Date