

March 18, 2020

DCS Caregivers (Kinship, Foster Families and Congregate Providers)

In these unprecedented times, there are two separate perspectives we are managing. First the COVID-19 outbreak is a legitimate health concern requiring our vigilance in adhering to health professional advice regarding social distancing, proper hygiene and remaining home if ill. Secondly, the social reaction, concerns and fears that have arisen are a separate yet real challenge that many of us have never faced.

Maintaining compassion, patience and support for each other must be heightened during these times.

With this in mind, the department has made the decision to move all parenting time and in-person child and Specialist contacts to virtual visitation effective immediately and lasting through April 5th. This time limited directive will be revisited each day and week to determine, upon advice of medical professionals, when regular face to face contact should resume.

As caregivers, you sacrifice a lot to serve our children; for that I am forever grateful.

My ask is that we are extremely supportive of shared parenting at this time. Caregivers are concerned about the safety of their own families and our birth families are fearful in these times about the safety of their children as well. Your support in facilitating these virtual visits is critical to bringing calm to the situation.

Direction has been provided to contracted visitation providers as well as DCS staff on how to facilitate this process. You will find all communication on our website. I am certain there will be challenges but as a team everyone can work through those challenges and help to ensure children can have these precious visits with their parents.

Thank you for all your support in this time of need,

Sincerely,



Mike Faust
Director