

March 19, 2020

Dear parent and child attorneys,

This communication is to inform you of a time limited decision the department has made regarding implementation of virtual visitation for scheduled parenting time and in-person child contact between children and their Specialist.

Effective immediately and lasting through April 5<sup>th</sup> the department will be conducting in person visitation through virtual means. 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.

Providers and staff have been directed to implement the following 4 options in priority order to conduct visitation:

Option 1: Parent and Caregiver have technology to facilitate video conferencing

- Provider will facilitate teleconference visitation via 3 way participation

Option 2: One party has the technology but the other does not

- Provider will go to the location of the individual without the technology or transport the individual to a location that has technology and facilitate the visitation

Option 3: Neither party has the technology to facilitate video conferencing but do have telephonic option

- Provider will facilitate a 3-way audio only call visit

Option 4: One or both parties does not have technology to facilitate telephonic option

- These situations must be elevated to the Resource and Referral unit.

Communication is being sent to all providers, caregivers, parents and presiding judges on this matter as well. It is our hope that the spread of COVID-19 is stopped and regular face to face visitation can resume as quickly as possible. Further communication will be provided as more information becomes available or if the situation changes.

I'm including a letter to parents, please share this with the parents you work with.

Sincerely,



Mike Faust  
Director