



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

September 25, 2020

Dear Caregivers,

At the Department of Child Safety our mission is to *Successfully engage children and families to ensure safety, strengthen families, and achieve permanency and with our Guiding principles: **Safety:** All Arizona's children are safe and protected from harm. **Permanency:** All Arizona's children live in safe, loving forever families. **Well-Being:** All Arizona's children are given the opportunity to thrive through the support of strong families and their communities.* Without you and your commitment to children in care the above would not be possible. I am so thankful for this community and your ongoing support during this challenging time.

As the community has begun to reduce restrictions there are many schools returning to in-person teacher-led learning either full time or through hybrid learning. As stated previously on July 6, 2020 the Department believes that the best way to educate children is in-person while practicing proper physical safety protocols. If there is a concern for a child in attending in-person school please reach out to EducationPOC@azdcs.gov to discuss the options and determine if the child is eligible for an exception.

We know that over the next few months there are still many challenges to face. We also believe that we can do this together and continue to overcome obstacles together to ensure better outcomes for children and families. Last week, I sent a letter that noted we are seeing an increase of children entering care. It is so important that we work together to ensure that children can be placed in a family-like setting.

Starting October 1, 2020 the Department will be resuming all in-person services for visitation and supports for families. As a reminder, all of our guidelines as it relates to COVID-19 can be found at <https://dcs.az.gov/covid19>. If you have a concern or feel that guidelines have not been followed please reach out to your licensing worker or call the DCS warmline at 1-877-543-7633 option 3.

Thank you for your commitment to children and families and for working together alongside us on this important mission.

Sincerely,

Mike Faust
Director

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