

April 29, 2020

Dear Parents,

Hope this message finds you well during this challenging time. I want you to know that you and your children's health and safety are my primary concern and that as soon as DCS can return to face-to-face parenting time and services, we will. Although there has been some, and will be additional, easing of physical distancing requirements in the community, the requirements are not yet relaxed to a point that allows a return to face-to-face parenting time and services.

The Department has extended the virtual visit directive to May 29, 2020. We have already started diligently planning to ensure safety protocols are enacted and working to ensure the reopening of community visitation centers and other locations to support visits. It is the intention of the Department to begin transitioning back to regular visitation practices one week prior to the expiration of this directive.

Having personally experienced significant time apart from my parent as a child, I fully appreciate the significance of this situation. We know that supporting virtual visitation has been a significant shift, but we are so grateful for everyone's support of this effort. The shared parenting practices implemented over the past 6 weeks has truly promoted the supportive relationships we are seeking. Although virtual visitation is not the same as in-person contact, we are thankful for the technological solutions that allow interaction and parenting time to occur during this public health crisis.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to your children and your patience during these changes to our normal visitation and services. We are hearing such positive stories about parents, caregivers and children bringing creative solutions for connecting during this time. If you have questions, please continue to work with your DCS Specialist.

We thank everyone for their patience and understanding during this time.

Mike Faust  
Director