

May 15, 2020

Dear Kinship, Foster and Congregate Caregivers,

A lot has changed during the last two months but one thing that remains constant is your commitment to serving Arizona's children and supporting their families during their time of need. It is hard to believe it has been 8 weeks since the announcement that schools would temporarily close only later to be canceled for the remainder of the academic calendar. Thank you for everything you do: before, during and after this public health crisis.

As communities begin relaxing stay home restrictions, it is critical that communication remain consistent and guidelines are clearly documented and made available. It's with this in mind that we continue to write to you each week and provide up to date guidance.

Through close review and discussion with public health officials, a focus on our mission, *to engage with children and families to ensure safety, strengthen families and achieve permanency*, and constant commitment to support children, families and caregivers we felt it appropriate to once again resume our core activities. Focus on child well-being, family needs and focus towards permanency remain ever-present during and beyond this crisis.

Department staff have worked tirelessly during this public health crisis to establish protocols to help children, families, caregivers, providers and our own staff continue delivering services while remaining mission focused. Now as restrictions are relaxed we commit to the same level of energy and effort is being invested to once again resume core mission-based activities.

Over the past week, Specialists have been scheduling in-person contact visits with children in the home of their caregivers, which are set to begin today. We are providing the guidelines again that were developed for our staff who will be engaging with in person contacts ([See Guidelines](#)).

Additionally, the Department has been making provisions to resume in-person parenting time (visitation) between children in their parents. A lot of thought and preparation is going into resuming this critical activity including a detailed set of guidelines. The parent-child visits will begin transition to in-person in two weeks with a full return to in person visitation on May 29th ([See Guidelines](#)).

If you have any questions on any of these matters please work with your Specialist, work with your Foster and Adoption Supports Licensing worker (where applicable) or contact the Department's Warmline at 1-877-543-7633 option 3.

Thank you for all you do,

Mike Faust
Director