

June 11, 2020

Dear DCS Contracted Service Providers,

As we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation in Arizona, the Department is constantly reassessing our directives & guidelines to determine if extensions, alterations, or expiration is warranted. At this time, **the Department is extending the expiration date to allow for virtual services to continue through 6/30/2020.**

Each of the items below are in effect through 6/30/2020 and will be reexamined individually as that date nears and new information is acquired. Please continue to reference the DCS COVID-19 website for more information & resources - <https://dcs.az.gov/covid19>.

#### Foster & Adoption Supports

- All licensing activities may be completed virtually through **6/30/20**.
- Foster Parent College training may be conducted virtually through **7/17/20**.
- DCS will continue to do routine in-person visits.

#### Parent Aide/SVO

- DCS has returned to 100% in-person visits after 5/29/20.
- For all Parent Aide referrals with a service authorization start date after 3/15/20, skill building sessions must be done in person in order to establish rapport and engagement with the family.
- For all Parent Aide referrals prior to 3/15/20 and have already done skill building sessions in person, skill building sessions may continue to be done virtually through **6/30/20**.
- Continue to follow the DCS In-Person Visit Guidelines (<https://dcs.az.gov/covid19>).

#### In-Home Preservation & Reunification

- If a family has tested positive for COVID-19 or symptomatic or is self-quarantined pending results of a COVID test, we are not requiring provider staff to enter the home in these cases. Providers are to go to the home and put eyes on child. We are asking providers to see the children either through the window, at distance, or some creative way to check on the family.
- For Reunification cases & families with an existing safety plan – 100% of visits must be done in person
- For Moderate Preservation cases – 1 face to face visit per week is required, remaining visits can be conducted virtually through **6/30/20**.
- For Intensive Preservation cases – 2 face to face visits per week are required, remaining visits can be conducted virtually through **6/30/20**.
- Initial contacts must be done in-person.
- Continue to follow the DCS In-Person Visit Guidelines (<https://dcs.az.gov/covid19>).

Building Resilient Families

- In the home services may be provided virtually through 6/30/20.
- Initial contacts must be done in-person.

Psych/Counseling & Unit Consultation Services

- Psychological Evaluations should continue in-person as long as both parties are symptom free for 72 hours without the aid of medication.
- Individual/Family Counseling Services may be provided via Telemed system through 6/30/20.
- Unit Consultation with DCS staff may be provided virtually through 6/30/20.
  - Clinical interviews with parents and other participants should be done in-person.

Home Assessment & Courtesy Supervision & ICPC

- Emergency & Scheduled Visitation returned to in-person after 5/29/20.
- Situations where Home Studies may be delayed or rescheduled include:
  - Placement has been made following an emergency home check conducted by DCS.
  - Home check is requested for a prospective placement but no immediate plans to transition children into the home.
- Monthly ICPC child contacts may be conducted virtual through 6/30/20.

Young Adult Programs (Independent Living Skills & Foster Sustainable Connections)

- Services may be provided virtually through 6/30/20.

Thank you for your partnership,



**Mike Faust**  
Director