

April 29, 2020

Dear Presiding Judges,

This communication is to advise that the Department has extended its administrative directive permitting DCS staff and assigned Supervised Visitation/Parent Aid providers to continue parenting time through virtual technology until May 29, 2020. The Department will maintain the current processes and protocols established over the past 6 weeks to sustain this directive.

The extension decision was made in support of the continued physical distancing executive orders in place throughout the state. Although there has been and will continue to be easing of those restrictions in the coming weeks, this action is being taken to promote the health of children in care, their families, caregivers, staff and providers.

Efforts have already begun to plan on a full return to regular parenting time practices. The Department is working internally and closely with the provider community to ensure visitation space, safety procedures and transitional plans are in place to support a return to face-to-face visitation. It is the intention of the Department to begin transitioning back to regular visitation practices one week prior to the expiration of this directive.

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

Mike Faust  
Director