



DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities



Vannessa L. Dorantes
Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor

Whereas, on March 10, 2020 Governor Ned Lamont proclaimed a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States and confirmed spread in Connecticut;

Whereas, Youth in the Department's care receive essential, life sustaining services from the Department through various Services Post Majority (SPM) programs;

Whereas, the termination of SPM programs may cause great hardship to these youth, including food insecurity, a lack of appropriate housing, and absence of an emotional support network;

Whereas DCF-involved youth may face increased barriers to compliance with SPM program requirements during this period which are beyond their control and the prospect of losing Department support during this time may cause stress and anxiety for these youth;

Whereas, DCF, vendors, contractors, child-care facilities and child placing agencies currently use name based and fingerprint-based searches to obtain background checks of prospective employees;

Whereas, fingerprinting is likely to increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19;

Whereas fingerprinting services through the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) are currently unavailable;

Pursuant to the Authority granted to me by Governor Ned Lamont pursuant to Executive Order 7M dated March 25, 2020, as Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families, I hereby order the following:

- **Temporary Suspension of DCF-800s, including associated hearings.** For the duration of this public health and civil preparedness emergency and until at least September 1, 2020, unless earlier modified or terminated by me, the provisions of DCF Policy 28-1, Adolescent Services and DCF Policy 25-2, Adoption Subsidies, are modified, suspending the requirement to issue a DCF-800, Notice of Proposed Denial, Suspension, Reduction, or Discontinuance of DCF Benefits, to DCF involved youth who are failing to maintain compliance with Services Post Majority and Post-Secondary Education program requirements. In addition, consistent with the Commissioner's COVID Order #1, issued April 6, 2020 which suspended non-critical Department of Children and Families Administrative Hearings, Fair Hearings will NOT be scheduled for any youth who have previously been issued a DCF-800.



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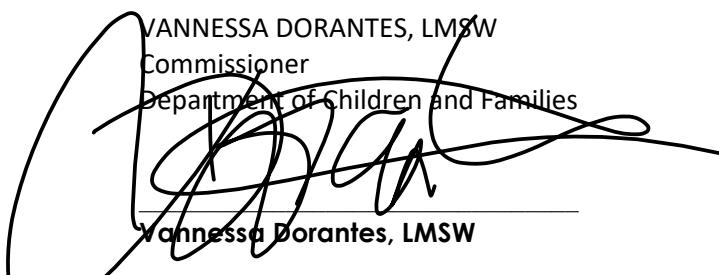
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- **Temporary Suspension of aging out provisions.** For the duration of this public health and civil preparedness emergency, and until at least September 1, 2020, unless earlier modified or terminated by me, the provisions of DCF Policy 28-1, Adolescent Services, are modified, suspending the requirement to issue a DCF-800, Notice of Proposed Denial, Suspension, Reduction, or Discontinuance of DCF Benefits, to DCF involved youth who are aging out of the Department's Services Post Majority program. During this period, all services to DCF involved youth shall continue, including services for youth who would normally be aging out of their respective Services Post Majority programs.
- **Temporary Suspension of fingerprinting of new employees**
Notwithstanding any provision of the Connecticut General Statutes or any regulation, local rule or provision of law, for the duration of this public health and civil preparedness emergency unless earlier modified or terminated by me, all statutory requirements for the Department of Children and Families to require fingerprint based background checks for any applicant, vendor or contractor provided for in C.G.S. § 17a-6a or any employee of a child-care facility or child placing agency as required by C.G.S. § 17a-151 are suspended. However, once DESPP resumes collection and processing of fingerprints for criminal history records checks, applicants, vendors, contractors or child-care facility or child placing agency employees hired during the deferral period shall be fingerprinted within 90 days of the time that DESPP resumes such activities. During this period in which criminal history records checks based upon fingerprinting have been suspended by the Office of the Governor, the Department, vendors, contactors, child-care facilities and child placing agencies should, to the best extent practicable, ascertain that the person being hired is appropriate to work with children, either through private background checking services, or via public records.

Unless otherwise specified herein, this order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness, unless earlier modified or terminated by me.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 30th day of April, 2020.


VANESSA DORANTES, LMSW
Commissioner
Department of Children and Families

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