



## 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, DCF has administrative authority to remove a child at imminent risk of physical harm from the child's surroundings without the consent of the child's parents for a period of ninety-six hours. If the child is not returned home within the ninety-six hour period, DCF must seek judicial approval;

Whereas, due to Judicial Branch closure of courthouses and restrictions on court hours of operation, as well as unanticipated technology issues with notarizing documents remotely and filing while teleworking, DCF staff may experience barriers to adhering to the ninety-six hour limitation;

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

### **Temporary Extension of Ninety-Six Hour Administrative Hold due to Exceptional Circumstances**

Section 17a-101g is modified so that in cases where the Department has exercised a ninety-six hour hold and has filed for an order of temporary custody with the Juvenile Court within the ninety- six hours, I hereby extend the ninety- six hour hold until such time as the court can review and act on the request for an order of temporary custody.

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 7th day of April 2020

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Dorantes', written over a horizontal line.

Vannessa Dorantes, LMSW

Commissioner

Department of Children and Families