



DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities



Vannessa L. Dorantes
Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor

MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION OF PREVIOUSLY ENTERED ORDERS PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 7M

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;

Pursuant to the Authority granted to me by Governor Ned Lamont under Executive Order 7M dated March 25, 2020, as Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families, I enacted orders within the scope of the authority granted to me.

I now modify or terminate the following previously entered orders:

- 1) Orders entered on April 3, 2020 are modified or terminated as follows:
 - a. Record requests are no longer limited to level 1 emergency cases and the responses shall be made to all requests within available resources and technology as determined by the DCF legal division.
 - b. Except for hearings for discontinuation of benefits for post majority adolescents, the Department shall resume all other Administrative hearings through the use of videoconferencing or telephone conferencing.
 - c. Fingerprinting by the Department of Children and Families in accordance with 29a-17a, shall resume and shall be done within five calendar days of the name-based search of a prospective placement resource. Within 90 days of the order, the Department shall arrange for fingerprinting of each individual licensed without a fingerprint based search during this period of temporary suspension.
 - d. MDEs shall resume completion within 30 days of the child coming into DCF care, through the use of in person and telehealth evaluations as appropriate.
- 2) Order entered on April 7, 2020 relating to extending 96 hour holds in limited circumstances is terminated as Juvenile Courts are now accessible during regular court hours
- 3) Orders entered on April 30, 2020 are modified or terminated as follows :
 - a. Fingerprinting of new employees shall resume. The Department shall develop a plan to fingerprint any new employees who were not fingerprinted during the period of Temporary Suspension of fingerprinting within 30 days of this order.
 - b. As DESPP has resumed collection and processing of fingerprinting, 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. § 17a6a or any employee of a child-care facility or child placing agency as required by C.G.S. § 17a-151 shall resume. Applicants, vendors, contractors or childcare facility or child placing agency employees hired during the deferral period shall be fingerprinted within 90 days of the date of this order.

These modifications and terminations shall take place immediately.

The following previously issued orders remain in effect during the period of this pandemic, unless modified or terminated by me:

April 3, 2020 order, the following sections only:

- Temporary Modification of In Person Investigative Visits and Extension of Time to Commence and Complete an Investigation of Child Abuse or Neglect Conducted by the Department of Children and Families.
- Flexibility related to Written Consent for Disclosure of Department of Children and Families records.

April 30, 2020 order, the following sections only:

- 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.
- 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.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 16th day of July, 2020.

VANNESSA DORANTES, LMSW

Commissioner Department of Children and Families

