



MEMORANDUM

TO: DCF All Staff
FROM: CT DCF Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes
DATE: March 17, 2020
SUBJECT: Guidelines Regarding Visits Between Families and Children in Care

We have collaborated with our partners in the Judicial Branch in the event visits between families and children in care must be postponed.

The Courts will remain open for "Priority 1 Business Functions" as identified in the guidance provided here: [Statement from Judge Patrick L. Carroll III Chief Court Administrator](#)

Additional information pertaining to Detention Centers and Detention Hearings is available here: [JCC & JRS Response to the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Caregivers may inquire about postponing visitation with particular children in care due to their special health care needs or those of others in the household. We want to be consistent in our review of these requests. In these circumstances, consultation with the RRG Nurse as well as our Medical Director is warranted.

Decisions to change the visitation schedule should only occur after consultation with the chain of command and other individuals within the office. Under these circumstances, we must offer the family and child alternatives such as, Skype, Face time, phone calls, etc., when face to face visits do not occur.

It is important the Department maintains clear documentation in the LINK record as to why the visits are not occurring and the personnel involved in the decision making. Staff should also notify the legal counsel of the child and family regarding the change in visitation schedule during the time these emergency accommodations are in effect.

Again, we remain very appreciative of everyone's efforts during these very difficult times.