Parent Child Visitation Guidance during COVID-19 Pandemic

TOPIC
Practice guide and considerations for safely providing parent child visits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PURPOSE
Announce publication of a practice guide for parent child visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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TERMINOLOGY NOTICE
The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.
I. Background

When children are in out-of-home placement, visitation between children and their parents is key to developing and maintaining parent-child relationships, reducing anxiety children experience when separated from their parents and shown to improve overall child well-being. Frequent visitation also contributes to successful reunification. The health and safety of children, biological and resource families, and agency staff must also be prioritized in planning for visits between children and parents.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has created new barriers for facilitating parent/child visitation, efforts are being made to ensure that these paramount connections continue and barriers are addressed. In response to ongoing questions and concerns regarding parent/child visitation, Minnesota Department of Human Services (department) staff engaged in a learning process to identify systemic barriers to visitation during the pandemic.

This parent/child visitation guide was developed in response to information from the learning process, providing guidance to local agencies regarding managing face-to-face contact between parents and children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

II. Purpose

Announce the availability of the new Parent-Child Visitation Guidance for COVID-19 Pandemic. The guide was developed for county and tribal social services responsible for child welfare services, but may also be helpful for parents and foster parents. This guide provides considerations for parent child visits to ensure safety for all participants and engage in efforts to slow the spread of the disease.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory

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