



## **COVID-19 Visitation Protocol for CASAs and Children (Phase 1) Effective January 26, 2021 and until further notice from Voices for Children, Inc.**

Voices for Children is pleased to return to phase one of CASA in-person visitation.

### **In-person visits are not mandatory.**

First and foremost, please know that in-person visits are optional. If you do not feel comfortable resuming visits, please continue to maintain contact remotely. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your supervisor if you need some fresh ideas about how to enhance your advocacy during these unusual circumstances.

### **Health and safety requirements for in-person visits**

Your health and safety and the safety of the children we serve and their families are of the utmost importance to us. All CASA volunteers must follow the requirements below if they choose to visit their case child/ren in-person.

- If you or anyone in your home has been ill in the last two weeks, please wait two weeks after all symptoms have subsided before considering visiting. Additionally, please confirm with the caregiver that no one who resides with the child or has access to the child has been ill over the 14 days leading up to a visit.
- Please contact the child's caregiver(s) before visiting to ensure that they are comfortable with resuming visits. Many community members continue to self-isolate for health and safety reasons. If the caregivers are not ready for in-person visits with the child, we must respect their wishes under these circumstances. Please be sure to inform your Advocacy Supervisor.
- Maintain social distancing (six feet) at all times throughout visits.
- Always wear a face covering during visits.
- Wash hands/use hand sanitizer frequently.
- Do not transport children at this time.
- Visits should occur at the child's placement. Maintaining a safe distance while walking in the neighborhood is permitted. Visiting outdoors is required during this phase.

### **Additional guidelines for in-person visits.**

The guidance below will apply in most cases. If you believe that your child's unique needs would be best served by a different approach, please speak with your Advocacy Supervisor prior to your visit.

- Keep your visit brief (1-2 hours).
- Consider alternating in-person and remote visits.
- Do not share food or items during your visit.

### **Ideas for socially-distanced visits.**

Need some ideas for how to spend time with your child/ren that adhere to the guidelines above? We have included the some ideas below, or please see the [Remote Advocacy Guide](#).

#### **For all children:**

- Let your child know that you have missed your time with them and why.
- Let your child know that if they want to talk about how things have been different for them the last few months that you want to listen.
- Ask your child open-ended questions about how they have been spending their time.
- If you have enjoyed activities together over the phone or videoconference, continue them (for example, coloring, crafts, flash cards).

#### **For younger children:**

- Read to your child or encourage your child to read to you.
- Make up a story together by adding a sentence or two out loud to the story and then letting the other person have a turn.
- Play games like Simon Says or I Spy.

#### **For older children:**

- Ask about books they have read or movies they have watched.
- Play games like Charades or Twenty Questions.
- Exercise together.

Please understand that these guidelines may change at any time based on public health guidance. Voices for Children will notify you if any changes must be made to this visitation protocol. If you need any creative ideas for visits under these guidelines, please check in with your Advocacy Supervisor. Please also contact your Advocacy Supervisor to discuss any concerns or challenges with these guidelines.

### **San Diego CASAs Only**

Please continue to contact the Child Welfare Services (CWS) social worker 48 hours prior to scheduling in-person visits. The social worker will confirm that the child has not recently tested positive for COVID-19. If you are having difficulty obtaining social worker confirmation, please contact your advocacy supervisor for assistance.