



## **COVID-19 Visitation Protocol for CASAs and Children (Phase 2) Effective April 1, 2021, and until further notice from Voices for Children, Inc.**

Voices for Children is pleased to introduce phase two of CASA in-person visitation.

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

Please know that in-person visits continue to be optional at this time. 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 and transportation**

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 and provide transportation for outing purposes.

- 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 or for you to transport the child, we must respect their wishes under these circumstances. Please be sure to inform your Advocacy Supervisor.
- Maintain social distancing (six feet) whenever possible throughout visits.
- Always wear a face covering during visits.
- Wash hands/use hand sanitizer frequently.
- Visits/outings should be brief (1-2 hours) and take place primarily outdoors.

### **Transportation requirements**

- Transporting children is now permitted but optional.

- Children are required to sit in the backseat regardless of age. (facemasks required for CASAs and child/ren)
- Children living in separate placements should not be transported together.
- Transportation should be limited to the extent necessary to get to and from the visit/outing location.

### **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.

- It is recommended that prior to an outing, if age appropriate, you and your child discuss how you plan to work together to keep each other healthy and safe during the visit/outing.
- The visit/outing should be immediately concluded and the child returned home if the child is not willing to comply with the health and safety guidelines for visits and transportation.
- Snacks and meals are permitted and should be enjoyed outside and socially distanced if the child and caregiver are comfortable. (Eating indoors is **NOT** permitted during this phase)
- Keep your visits brief (1-2 hours).
- Consider alternating in-person and remote visits.
- If your child has an extraordinary circumstance that you believe may warrant a departure from these guidelines, please reach out to your Advocacy Supervisor.

### **Socially-distanced visits**

Need some ideas for how to spend time with your child/ren that adhere to the guidelines above? Please see the [Remote Advocacy Guide](#).

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.