



**COVID-19 Visitation Protocol for CASAs and Children (Phase 3)  
Effective June 25, 2021, and until further notice from Voices for Children, Inc.**

Voices for Children is pleased to introduce phase three 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 circumstances.

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

Your health and safety and the safety of the youth 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 youth or nonminor dependents (NMDs) in-person and/or 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 youth or has access to the youth has been ill over the 14 days leading up to a visit.
- Please contact the youth'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 youth, 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.
- Continue to wear a face covering during visits if you are unvaccinated, if you are vaccinated but still choose to wear a face covering, or if the youth/NMD or caregiver asks that you wear a face covering.
- Wash hands/use hand sanitizer frequently.

## **Transportation requirements**

- Transporting youth and NMDs is permitted but remains optional at this time.
- Transporting youth from different placements is permitted so long as both caregivers are comfortable with the CASA doing so.

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

The guidance below will apply in most cases. If you believe that your youth'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 youth 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 youth returned home if the youth is not willing to comply with the health and safety guidelines for visits and transportation.
- Snacks and meals are permitted. (Eating indoors is also permitted so long as the CASA, youth and caregiver are comfortable.)
- If your youth 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 youth 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**

CASAs are no longer required to contact the child welfare services social worker prior to scheduling a visit. Please do continue to check with the youth's caregiver in advance of outings to ensure the youth has not been sick or exposed to COVID-19 and the caregiver is comfortable with outings and transportation taking place