

CASA KANE COUNTY COVID-19 ADVOCACY PROTOCOL AND
VIRTUAL CHILD VISIT QUESTIONNAIRE

Greetings CASA Family:

As we all work together to modify a new normal with COVID-19, the health, safety and well-being of the children we serve, volunteers and staff are of the utmost importance.

In-Person Child Visits:

- In-person child visits are suspended.

Increase Child/Caregiver Contact:

- Increase contact with child and caregivers via text, phone, or video conferencing.
- Notify your Advocate Supervisor immediately if there are any concerns for the well-being or safety of a child or family during these uncertain times.
- Increase the calls to foster parents to learn more about how everyone is doing.

Increase Caseworker Contact:

- Verify when caseworkers last had an in person child visit.
- Obtain detailed notes on case workers visits, and contacts with the families and children.

Restrictive Access to Congregate Care Facilities, Schools, Detention Centers, etc.:

- Anticipate that placements and facilities will likely be restricting visits out of an abundance of caution if not already done so.
- Communicate with the facilities and determine what means of communication are available and how those can be used to facilitate contact with youth.

Court Meetings & Hearings:

- All court hearings have been rescheduled for 35 days from the originally scheduled court date unless the date fall on the weekend, at which time, it will be rescheduled for the following business day.
- Only shelter care hearings, 10 Day rehearing, emergency motions, removal and return home motions will be heard.
- Discuss with your Advocate Supervisor to determine whether your presence is necessary and what other arrangements can be made for your presence.

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Scheduled GIM, Pre-Service or In-Service Trainings:

- All in person trainings have been cancelled however; those trainings will be offered via video conferencing. Please review CASA U and Education Calendar for details.

Large Gatherings & Special Events:

- Volunteer Recognition Event and the Swearing in Ceremony are postponed. Hands Around the Courthouse has been canceled.

Case Management:

Please make sure the following information has been answered for your case and provide to your Advocate Supervisor.

- 1) When did you make your last in person visit?
- 2) Are there safety concerns we need to watch for? (mental health issues, relapse, recent return home..etc..)
- 3) Do the parents or foster parents have access to Skype, Facetime, Zoom or a social media outlet that allows them to talk “in person” with you.
- 4) Do the parents have a reliable phone to call and text?
- 5) What is the visitation plan for parents and siblings? For those with kids out of their care they must be reminded they cannot live at the home where their children are placed and this will mean staying away from their kids should a full quarantine go into place. This is going to be very hard on both the kids and parents if that happens but court orders must be obeyed.

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QUESTIONNAIRE FOR VIRTUAL CHILD CHECK -IN

Below, are questions and conversations to discuss during your phone and video calls with your children and families. For caregivers and foster parents, the goal is to identify any unmet needs. For children, the goal is to be open and honest. We should express that this is a temporary situation with precautions being taken to make sure everyone is safe and healthy.

CAREGIVER/FOSTER PARENT:

1. Is there anything you need?
2. Are there any resources that you are lacking?
3. What are the daycare plans?
4. What are the educational plans?
5. Do you need information on certain topics?
6. Do you know how to get ahold of your caseworker?
7. What have you been instructed about visits with parents, siblings?
8. Any child ill or exposed to COVID-19?
9. Any concerns about medication refills or medical appointments that are critical?
10. Do you understand the Shelter in Place rules in your community?

CHILD:

1. How are you doing now that you are learning from home?
 - a. How are you feeling about things?
 - b. Do you have any assignments from school/e-learning?
2. Is there food for you to eat at mealtimes? Are you able to get lunch now that you're out of school for a little while?
3. What activities are you doing at home?
 - a. Volunteers may want to discuss proper hygiene and social distancing. This link is a great resource: [PBS Meet the Helpers](#).
4. Talk about feelings and facts. Do you have any questions about what's going on? (Be age appropriate. Share facts. Provide reassurance.)
5. Make children feel safe.

