

**CAUSE NO.**  
**(ALL CHILD WELFARE CAUSES BEFORE THE CHILD PROTECTION COURT OF**  
**PANOLA COUNTY, TEXAS)**

**IN RE: TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF § IN THE CHILD PROTECTION COURT**  
**FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE §**  
**SERVICES § PANOLA COUNTY, TEXAS**

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING PARENT-CHILD VISITATIONS**

Having considered the current situation with Coronavirus (COVID-19), Governor Abbot's declaration of a state of disaster for all Texas counties on March 13, 2020, having considered the Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas' First Emergency Order Regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster, describing measures to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of all, and also having considered the importance of having parent-child visitations, the Court finds that good cause exists for the entry of this Order. The Court makes this order on its own initiative. In making this Order, the Court has taken into consideration the best interest of the child or children whose lives may be affected by the terms of this Order, the rights of the parent or parents whose lives may be affected by the terms of this Order, the publicly-funded nature of this special statutory litigation, and the need for the effective and efficient administration of justice, among other things.

IT IS ORDERED that all previously ordered visitations, including but not limited to parent-child visitations and sibling visitations scheduled to take place between March 16, 2020 and April 1st, 2020 are HEREBY ORDERED SUSPENDED in an effort to contain the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and to protect all parties. Any violations for lack of compliance by the parents will be waived by the Court for any and all visitations only during this time.

IT IS ORDERED that the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS), IS HEREBY ORDERED to:

- (1) provide a copy of this Standing Order to each parent;
- (2) advise all children of this Standing Order;

- (3) also advise each parent, child and CASA of their right to request an exception be made to this Order in the manner described below.
- (4) all parties are to take into consideration whether this halt of visitation will adversely affect the behavioral and/or emotional level of the child in any way in determining whether or not to request an exception to this Order.
- (5) If an exception is requested by any party, then TDFPS is instructed to do the following:
- a. First, staff this exception with TDFPS Caseworker, Program Director, CASA, parents and parent's attorneys and confer in an effort to reach an alternative plan prior to an emergency hearing being requested; and
  - b. If no agreement is reached, then the person requesting the exception SHALL request an Emergency telephonic hearing by contacting the Court Coordinator, Stephanie Pryor via email at [stephanie.pryor@txcourts.gov](mailto:stephanie.pryor@txcourts.gov).
- (6) If no exception is requested, then TDFPS is ORDERED to e-file an Advisement to the Court notifying that a suspension of visitation will take place during this time and that this is agreed to by all parties.

IT IS THE ORDER OF THIS COURT that the following be implemented as of the date of this signing of this Order.

SIGNED on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
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ASSOCIATE JUDGE LISA ANDREWS

