

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING PARENT-CHILD VISITATION
IN CHILD PROTECTION CASES
IN CHEROKEE, LEON, LIMESTONE, AND FREESTONE COUNTIES**

The Court after having considered the current situation with Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Governor's declaration of a state of disaster and the Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas' 12th Emergency Order, the Court enters the following Standing Order:

1. The Court finds that it is necessary to extend the prior Standing Order Regarding Parent-Child Visitation dated March 24, 2020, in order to protect the health and welfare of all parties to litigation before the Court. The Court further finds that continued parent-child visitations is in the best interest of the children before the Court.
2. **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that the provisions of the Standing Order dated March 24, 2020 shall be extended to June 1, 2020. All previously ordered parent-child visitation scheduled to take place between March 25, 2020 and June 1, 2020 is **SUSPENDED** in an effort to protect all parties. No Face to Face, or in-person visitation shall be conducted, except as provided by this Order or by further Order of the Court.
3. Supervised In-person visitation for children placed in a Kinship home, may be conducted in the caregiver's home, **pursuant to consent of the kinship placement and the Department**, with the following social distancing restrictions:
 - a. The only persons allowed in the visitation are the parent(s), visitation supervisor, and the child(ren).
 - b. Each parent shall wear face coverings (masks or bandana) during all contact with the child(ren).
 - c. If any party displays any symptom of illness, it shall be reported immediately to the Department and the visit shall be cancelled.
4. Visitation related to proposed monitored returns may begin with the approval of the Department, child's Ad Litem, and CASA. The Court shall be notified that such visitation has begun, including the schedule and logistics of the visitation. Adherence to social distancing protocols of Kinship visitation shall be required, where feasible.
5. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) shall arrange for telephonic, Skype, Facetime or other electronic communications in place of in-person visitation between March 25, 2020 and June 1, 2020, according to the previous ordered visitation schedules.

Signed this 4th Day of May, 2020.

**FILED
ALISON DOTSON
Clerk, District Court
Cherokee County, Texas**



**KEITH DOWNS
Associate Judge
Northeast Texas Child Protection Court #3**

By KIM WEST at 11:41:36 AM, 5/5/2020