



## **CASA of San Benito County Program Guideline regarding COVID-19 for Advocate in-person visits with Dependent Children from San Benito County as of March 15, 2021.**

First and foremost, please know that in-person visits remain optional at this time. If you do not feel comfortable resuming visits in-person, please continue to maintain contact with your assigned child(ren) remotely. Your safety and the safety of the children and families we serve is our first priority.

On March 21, 2020, CASA of San Benito County temporarily suspended in-person visitation of advocates with their assigned foster child(ren). The temporary suspension was in response to and in compliance with Governor Newsom's and the County of San Benito directives due to COVID-19 declaration of a state of emergency.

As of March 14, 2021, San Benito County is in the Red Tier category determined by the state of California all existing CASA requirements relative to in-person visits can resume wearing a face covering, maintaining social distancing in an outdoor setting and away from others. **Please note, transportation of your assigned child(ren) continues to be prohibited.** Prior to conducting any in-person visits, CASAs should contact the caregiver and ask the following questions:

- Has anyone in your home tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- In the past 14 days have you, your children, and/or anyone else in your household had any of the following symptoms?
  - Fever
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Severe headaches
  - Sore throat
  - New loss of taste or smell
- Have you, your children, and/or anyone else in your household had close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 with a laboratory-confirmed test in the last 14 days?

If someone answers "yes" to any of the questions, they should be encouraged to contact their doctor and let them know about their symptoms and/or exposure. If someone in the household has been exposed to COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms, you are required to cancel the in-person visit with the child and resume visitation remotely via Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, phone or text.

If there are no members of the household affected or have been exposed to COVID-19 within the last 14 days, you may visit with the child(ren) wearing protective face covering and socially distancing (6 ft. apart) in an outdoor setting. Before heading out for each in-person visit, you are required to screen yourself for any COVID-19 symptoms. This includes:

- Taking your temperature

- Assessing personal health condition for possible symptoms
- Use the CDC Coronavirus Self-Checker (optional)
- Talk to your Case Supervisor if unsure

Additionally:

- Consider alternating your in-person and remote visits.
- If the activity you are planning with your child involves supplies or items, be sure that you each have your own.
- You may provide supplies for your child, but please ensure they are clean.
- You may bring snacks for your child as long as they are individually wrapped – do not share snacks!
- Carry hand sanitizer with you for your visits, in case there is no hand-washing facility available.
- If the caregiver is not comfortable with the in-person visit, be respectful and contact your Case Supervisor.
- These guidelines can change at any time based on health recommendations by the State and the County. We will notify you with any changes.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of GUIDELINES**

My signature indicates that I have read and agree to follow all of the guidelines presented in CASA of San Benito County's COVID-19 Advocate In-Person Visitation Guideline.

I also agree to follow all state and local orders and guidance for public safety.

I understand that:

- I am responsible for my own health and safety, including potential contraction of the Covid-19 virus.
- In person visits with my assigned CASA child/youth are optional at this time.

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Court Appointed Special Advocate Name (Print)

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Court Appointed Special Advocate Signature

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Date