

**IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF FLORIDA**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-06

IN RE: JUVENILE DEPENDENCY VISITATION IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

WHEREAS, all persons, agencies, entities and the courts are presently operating under a public health emergency.

WHEREAS, I previously issued directives and administrative orders closing court operations and facilities to the general public, substantially limiting in-person court proceedings and imposing substantial restraints on parties and participants in juvenile dependency proceedings in order to comply with emergency directives, declarations and orders.

WHEREAS, the purpose of this administrative order is to mitigate the risk of pandemic exposure caused by compliance with court orders for visitation in dependency cases.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- I. This Administrative Order applies in all counties of the Second Judicial Circuit.
- II. “The Department” means the Florida Department of Children and Families serving children and families in dependency proceedings in the Second Judicial Circuit and its contracted Agents -- Big Ben Community Based Care, Children’s Home Society, DISC Village and such other organizations and entities providing services to families in dependency cases through court order.
- III. All orders for in-person visitation for parents and siblings (not residing together) are hereby suspended. *With the consent of all parties*, the Department is granted discretion to permit or resume in-person visitation for a particular family and on such conditions as deemed be reasonably safe and appropriate.
- IV. The Department and its Agents shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that electronic visitation with parents and siblings occurs on a reasonable and frequent basis, taking into account the circumstances and resources of each family and child.
- V. The Department is directed to file a memorandum setting out the electronic visitation schedule for each child and family, approved supervisor for such visitation and any known barriers to electronic visitation. Such reports should be filed as soon as practicable but in no event later than 15 days from the date of this order. The Department shall update the

electronic visitation memorandum within three days if the Department determines that changes to the schedule or supervisor are required.

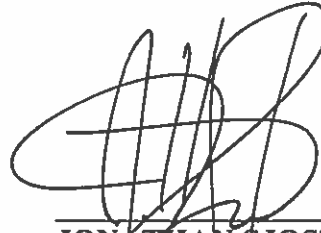
VI. Parents permitted unsupervised visitation by prior court order shall be permitted unsupervised electronic visitation. The Department is granted discretion to permit unsupervised electronic visitation whenever it determines that unsupervised electronic visitation is reasonably safe and otherwise appropriate.

VII. Any party may file a motion raising an issue related to parent or sibling visitation. The court will promptly review such motion, may direct the filing of a written response, may set a remote hearing on the motion or may issue a written order as deemed appropriate on the filings alone.

VIII. This administrative order is effective immediately, and in effect until further order of the Chief Judge.

IX. This AO supersedes all inconsistent provisions of any prior directive or administrative order.

DONE and ORDERED in chambers in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, this 24th day of March, 2020.



JONATHAN SJOSTROM
Chief Judge

Copies furnished to:
All Circuit and County Judges, Second Judicial Circuit
All Clerks of the Court, Second Judicial Circuit
All Sheriffs, Second Judicial Circuit
State Attorney, Second Judicial Circuit
Public Defender, Second Judicial Circuit
Office of Court Administration, Second Judicial Circuit