



NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Good Evening Directors,

We are sharing with you tonight guidance NC DHHS received from ACF approving our request to conduct Monthly Foster Care visits through videoconferencing.

Guidance states:

- There are limited circumstances in which states could waive the in-person aspect of the requirement and permit the monthly caseworker visit to be accomplished through a videoconferencing.
- Such circumstances are limited to those that are beyond the control of the caseworker, child, or foster family, such as a declaration of an emergency that prohibits or strongly discourages person-to-person contact for public health reasons.
- If a state uses videoconferencing under these limited, specified circumstances, caseworkers must conduct the videoconference in accordance with the timeframe established in the Act.
- ACF encourages states to consider plans of action should a caseworker not be able to reach a child via videoconference, or should the videoconference raise a concern about the child's safety or well-being.
- The waiver of the requirement would be narrowly limited to the timeframe during which the public health challenge exists and should be well documented in the child's case plan.

If you have any questions about this guidance, please contact your Regional Child Welfare Consultant.

Additionally, we received the following information from ACF concerning IV-E reviews:

Title IV-E Eligibility Reviews:

We recognize how much long-term work is associated with an onsite Title IV-E Eligibility Review, as well as the ongoing preparation for reviews that are scheduled to occur in the immediate future. However, in light of current circumstances, and for the health and well-being of all prospective reviewers and the general public, we will be rescheduling some upcoming reviews. ACF's Regional Offices will be in touch to partner with the relevant states to take appropriate steps.

We will follow up on the IV-E review and will keep you updated with all new guidance as we receive. This is an everchanging situation and we appreciate your efforts to keep children in your communities safe.

Thank you,
Susan

Susan G. Osborne
Assistant Secretary for County Operations
NC Department of Health and Human Services