

STANDING ORDER REGARDING PARENT-CHILD VISITATION AND OTHER FACE TO FACE VISITS IN ALL CHILD PROTECTION CASES IN ERATH COUNTY, TEXAS

WHEREAS there continues to be a rising number of presumptive positive COVID-19 cases reported by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and Texas Governor Abbott along with the DSHS Commissioner have declared a public health disaster that prohibits social gatherings of more than 10 people. The Child Protection Court, 8th Region South, finds that the following orders are in the best interest of the children currently in the Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services out of Erath County, Texas.

1. All previously ordered parent-child visitations, sibling visitations, Attorney Ad Litem and/or Guardian Ad Litem visits, DFPS visits, and Our Community – Our Kids (OC-OK) visits scheduled between March 23, 2020 and May 3, 2020 are HEREBY ORDERED SUSPENDED in an effort to contain the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and in an attempt to protect all parties. If there are cases where TDFPS or OC-OK believe that there are extraordinary circumstances that would require a face to face visitation then they may use their discretion in setting up this access and must provide written notification to all parties and to the Court describing the extraordinary circumstance.
2. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, OC-OK, Attorney Ad Litem, and Guardian Ad Litem are HEREBY ORDERED to make arrangements for telephonic, Skype, ZOOM, or FaceTime communications in place of any in-person visitation between March 23, 2020 and May 3, 2020.
3. This ORDER shall apply to children who are in relative or fictive kin placements as well.

Signed this 23th day of March, 2020



David A. Barkley
Associate Judge

Child Protection Court, 8th Region South