

ORDER OF THE 279TH DISTRICT COURT

THIRD AMENDED VISITATION ORDER FOR CHILDREN IN THE CONSERVATORSHIP OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

On the 5th day of November, 2021, the 279th and 317th District Courts of Jefferson County, Texas, Family Courts of Jefferson County, having considered the County Judge's Declaration of Emergency and its Amendments, the Governor's Declaration of Emergency and its Amendments, and the Supreme Court of Texas Emergency Orders, make the following orders for the safety and well-being of the children in foster care and the foster homes:

The Department may limit visitation to supervised telephone contact, supervised Skype, and supervised Facetime or other similar application. If parents are approved for unsupervised access, the access may be done via the aforementioned access methods.

The Department may allow in-person visitation subject to the following considerations: the reasonable requests and circumstances of the foster family including circumstances of other persons residing in the household, whether the child is placed with relatives, the COVID threat level in the areas where the child and parents reside, whether the parent is living in a stable situation which lessens the threat of infection, whether the parent is engaging in conduct that increases the threat of infection (including for example: engaging in active drug use, frequenting bars, and engaging in criminal activities), whether those involved have been vaccinated, whether those involved have recent negative tests, whether anyone coming into contact with those involved has exhibited symptoms or tested positive, and the availability of Department employees or contractors to supervise the visits. The Department shall use any other applicable CDC criteria in making its decision to allow in-person access.

In person visitation shall comply with CDC and Department protocol.

Visitation for children who are in residential placement facilities shall follow both these guidelines and the rules and regulations of the facility.

If the Department denies in-person access to a child and a parent wishes to contest, that matter shall be properly noticed by the party and set for hearing.

These orders shall remain in effect until the Jefferson County and State of Texas Declarations of Emergency are lifted.

The Family Courts find these orders to be in the best interest of the children.

SIGNED this the 5th day of NOVEMBER, 2021.



JUDGE PRESIDING