

IN RE:
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
CONCERNING FULTON COUNTY
JUVENILE DEPENDENCY ORDERS
RELATIVE TO COVID-19 MATTERS

: IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
: OF THE 39TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
: OF PENNSYLVANIA –
: FULTON COUNTY BRANCH
:
: A.D. No. 12 of 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, to wit, this 24th day of March 2020, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that due to public health advisories to reduce exposure to novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) and slow the spread of the disease, visitation for and contact with adjudicated youth will be modified as follows:

All visitation by Order of Court and/or pursuant to Pennsylvania Code Sections 3130.68 and/or 3490.235 between and adjudicated youth in placement and a parent, guardian, sibling, kin or relative, or prospective placement resource; Guardian Ad Litem or attorney; and/or Fulton County Services for Children staff shall be conducted by method of telecommunication. Telecommunication shall include video conference, telephone calls, Facetime, Skype and Zoom communication, any and all other video and audio communication to effectuate meaningful and effective visitation and/or contact. If telecommuting is not possible and/or not age appropriate, the visitation and/or contact shall be temporarily suspended.

FURTHER, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that Fulton County Services for Children (“Agency”) shall make any and all reasonable efforts to assist the facilitation of visitation between parents/legal guardians and children pending the evolving public health advisories concerning COVID-10 to carry out telecommunication visitation. Reasonable efforts by Fulton County Services for Children to assist in facilitation of telecommunication shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. The Agency caseworker shall arrange for the schedule of telecommunication to be developed by the foster parent, natural parent and agency caseworker. Telecommunication visits shall be permitted more frequently as schedules, technology and other considerations permit.
2. Telecommunication visits shall be supervised to the extent that contact visits were supervised. The supervising kinship/foster parent, or agency worker as necessary, is


EMAILO

responsible for ensuring that the visit occurs on speaker phone and remaining within hearing distance for the duration of the call.

3. Following all telecommunication visits, the agency worker shall follow up with the kinship/foster parent to ascertain how the scheduled visit went, and update the case documentation.
4. If concerns arise from telecommunication to the degree that the Agency determines it is no longer appropriate for the visits to be facilitated by the parent/guardian and kinship/foster parent, the agency shall be responsible for facilitating the visits.

This Order shall remain in effect until further Administrative Order of Court.

BY THE COURT,



Hon. Shawn D. Meyers, President Judge

