

Family Advocacy Unit
Parent/Child Visits During COVID-19

Effective **August 31, 2020**, In-Person Visits Between Parents and their Children in Philadelphia DHS Custody are **RESTARTED**

What Parents Need to Know:

★All visits may now be in person. If you have overnight visits, those will be daytime visits for now.

★Your current court order will tell you how often you can visit, and whether your visit is supervised or not.

★Your CUA worker should contact you soon to make an updated visitation plan. You may have a new day or time for visits, but your visits should happen as often as they were allowed on the last court order.

★You and your child will be pre-screened for symptoms of COVID-19 before the visit to make sure the visit can safely occur. If there is a problem with the pre-screen (for instance, if you are positive for COVID), your visits will be virtual until you can pass the pre-screen.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What if I don't feel safe attending in-person visits, do I still have to go?

A: No. If you prefer, you can ask that visits stay virtual for now.

Q: The foster parent doesn't want in-person visits to occur, can I still have visits?

A: Yes. Parents and children can opt out of in-person visits, but foster parents and/or CUA workers cannot stop your right to in-person visits without a court order.

Q: The last court order says that the foster parent should supervise, but they don't want to. What can I do?

A: If the foster parent does not want to supervise your visit, your visit will be supervised by the CUA.

Q: My court order says I get two visits per week, but I'm only being offered one in-person visit per month. Is that allowed?

A: No. You must be offered as many visits as the court order requires.

Q: Are all children eligible for in-person visits?

A: Yes, every child in DHS custody with a case plan goal of reunification is eligible for in-person parent/child visits, unless the court order says otherwise.

Q: I want in-person visits, but they are not being provided. What should I do?

A: You can call your CUA worker and CUA supervisor. You can also call the DHS Commissioner's Action Response Office at 215-683-6000 and/or your attorney.

Q: Where can I find more information about my rights?

A: The Standing Court Order, DHS Policy, and Family Guidance documents are available here:
<https://www.phila.gov/documents/covid-19-child-welfare-policies-and-protocols/>

