

Guidance to Phased-In Visits

Phase	Pre-Requisites	In-Person Visits	Court
I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program is able to provide adequate PPE • GAL have received training on proper use of PPE and protocol for in-person visits • Program Administrator permits in person visits • Discuss specific concerns or accommodations with supervisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-Risk children – Visits Allowed • Medium-Risk children – Consultation with coordinator required before visiting • Low-Risk children – Virtual visits only • <i>Must follow GALP Safety Practice for in person visits</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to attend virtually as much as possible • Consult with coordinator regarding special circumstances • Dependent upon MJB decisions re: court
II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program remains able to provide adequate PPE • GAL receive regularly updated PPE training and in person visits protocols • Program Administrator permits in person visits • Discuss specific concerns or accommodations with supervisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-Risk children – Visits Allowed • Medium-Risk children – Visits Allowed • Low-Risk children – Continue Virtual Visits • <i>Must follow GALP Safety Practice for in person visits</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent upon MJB decisions re: Court • Consult with coordinator • Continue to attend virtually as much as possible

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SAFETY PRACTICE FOR IN PERSON VISITS

GAL Pre-Visit Assessment:

- Before making a home visit, call an adult in the home or facility you will be visiting and ask the following questions:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Does anyone in the household/facility have a fever, cough or other signs of illness?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Have you or anyone in your household/facility come into contact with any person under investigation (PUI) for exposure to the COVID-19 Coronavirus, or anyone with known COVID-19?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Has anyone in the household/facility been tested for the COVID-19 virus?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, did anyone in the household/facility test positive for COVID-19?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If a test is pending, is the individual isolated/quarantined while awaiting results?

If a family indicates “Yes” to any of the screening questions:

Guardians ad Litem should consult with their supervisor to determine how contact should be made. In some cases, contact with law enforcement or emergency medical services may be necessary. Consultation with local public health and a county or tribal attorney may be useful in these circumstances.

If the person does not have a phone or cannot take calls, ask the questions when you arrive but before entering.

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In-Person Visits Practice and Procedure:

Whenever Guardians ad Litem visit a family's home or a facility, they should take common-sense precautions to reduce their exposure to COVID-19, including:

- Avoid touching surfaces in the home as much as possible. Use a tissue to touch a surface when needed
- Do not shake hands with family members or engaging in other forms of physical greeting
- Maintain six feet between Guardian ad Litem and family members during home visits whenever possible
- When possible and when privacy can be maintained, meet outdoors, unless accessing the home is necessary due to the nature of a report
- Clean and sanitize hands both prior to and after each home visit by washing hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes
- Clean and disinfect home, car, and workspace with alcohol- or bleach-based products often
- Clean and disinfect clothes often
- Avoid touching the face

PREFERRED PRACTICE

All in person visitation should happen in an outdoor setting.

Yard, park, porch, going for a walk etc.

Suggestion: Provide your own lawn chair/seating

Prior to conducting the visit: call the family to discuss expectations

- Social distancing, make sure the kids understand this

- Inform the family what precautions GAL will be taking (PPE, etc.)

If an in person visit cannot be conducted in an outside setting, consultation with manager/coordinator is required.

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INCLEMENT WEATHER

If inclement weather prevents an outdoor meeting, the GAL should attempt to reschedule if possible.

If this is not possible would a garage with an open door be a possibility? I know outdoor air flow helps prevent the spread.

INDOOR VISITATION

If it is determined that an indoor visit must take place, GAL will:

- Inform the family prior to the visit what the GAL's safety practices will be for the meeting
- Ask the family/provider what precautions they will be taking to ensure the safety of everyone present
- Manage their belongings while in the home. Don't take anything in that isn't necessary.
- Keep all belongings on their person, in their pockets or on their lap (notebooks, keys, lap top, etc.
- There will be no food or drink
- The meeting should be limited to the essential participants only, this will be discussed prior to the visit
- Limit your time in the home to cover only the essential topics- Inform the family of this prior to the meeting
- Placing a phone call to the family when you are outside, to check in and go over guidelines

[Parent or Caregiver Refusal to Allow Visit:](#)

High risk children must be seen during Phase 1 to appropriately assess safety.

- If a parent or guardian denies access to the child through an in-person visit, citing concerns about Coronavirus, the Guardian ad Litem may need to consult with your supervisor.
- It may be helpful for the Guardian ad Litem to educate the parent or guardian by providing a copy of the CDC guidelines about limiting the spread of coronavirus and explaining that the GALP is taking necessary precautions, such as diligently washing/sanitizing hands, wearing masks and staying home when sick.
- If the foster parent continues to refuse GALP access to the child through an in-person visit due to concerns about Coronavirus, the matter should be discussed with the Guardian ad Litem's coordinator to assess the safety priority. It may be appropriate to allow phone contact, either by phone call or FaceTime, instead of an in-person visit.

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Helpful Resources and Links to Additional Information:

Prevention:

- Wash Your Hands
- Stop the Spread of Germs
- Cover Your Cough
- Protect Your Coworkers
- Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19 (Centers for Disease Control)
- Cloth Face Coverings: Questions and Answers (Centers for Disease Control)

Public Health and Pandemic Information:

- Pandemic Fact Sheet
- Seasonal Flu versus Pandemic Flu
- Influenza Symptoms
- COVID - 19 Symptoms
- Coronavirus Fact Sheet

Other Resources:

- Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- World Health Organization
- US Department of Health & Human Services
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention:
 - CDC Travel Information
 - CDC FAQs for Travel