

Update on Gov. Inslee's Proclamation 20.33 and Family Time In-Person Visitation Expectations

Gov. Inslee's Proclamation 20.33, originally issued on March 26, 2020, currently expires on August 31, 2020. Over the past several months, the proclamation has been extended at the request of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to allow flexibility for ensuring safety during the public health crisis and to allow time for DCYF and Family Time providers to plan a safe return to in-person visitation.

Keep in mind that (1) the goal is to return to in-person visitation to the extent safely as possible, (2) DCYF and providers have made good strides and are more prepared to accommodate in-person visits, and (3) where remote visits are needed, they can still occur even without the proclamation in place.

This final request will allow continued preparation of case workers, parents, caregivers, providers and foster parents for the transition back to in-person visitation. Specifically, the request to extend for four weeks involves the need for adequate time to accomplish the following:

- Communicate internally about the timeline and changes to monthly health and safety visits, as well as family time visitation guidelines.
- Communicate externally with parents, providers, and caregivers about timeline and changes to health and safety visits and family time visitation.
- Set up DCYF office space and cleaning services to accommodate in-person visits.
- Work with AAG's on necessary motions to support health and safety during visits.
- Communicate with county courts on system changes in visitation so they are prepared for potential increase in hearings related to visitation.
- Plan for individual responses for counties that are experiencing higher-exposure rates or local orders impacting movement of residents.

As a reminder, for whatever period of time that Proclamation 20.33 is in effect, the following apply:

- The proclamation does not suspend or prevent in-person visits in any way. It only allows flexibility to conduct remote visits where in-person cannot be carried out safely.
- In-person visits can and should be provided in cases where health and safety protocols can be followed.

[Family Time In-Person Visits Guidance Protocol Provider](#)

[Family Time In-Person Visits Guidance DCYF Staff](#)

[Family Time In-Person Visits Guidance Parents](#)

[Family Time In-Person Visits Guidance Foster Parent and Kinship caregivers](#)

- In cases where health and safety protocols cannot be followed, the visit should occur remotely.
- If the visit must be cancelled, it should be rescheduled.
- Providers must continue to document all visit services in SPROUT regardless of payment type.
- If a Family Time provider is unable to provide in-person visitation even when health and safety protocols can be followed, the visit should be re-assigned to another provider who is able to provide in-person visitation.

Please remember, regardless of whether the proclamation is extended or not, DCYF is committed to returning safely to in-person visitation. If you have any questions, please contact the Regional Leads.

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Respectfully,

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