

## **TCA COVID-19/AIRBORNE ILLNESS SAFETY PROCEDURES**

COVID-19 has affected every aspect of life—from school, work, and travel to how we conduct ourselves socially. This global pandemic has affected custody plans for some families which includes how we proceed with supervised visitation.

Medical experts agree that social distancing will help slow the spread of COVID-19. As a result, local and state governments across the U.S. had to shut down schools, issue orders to close businesses, and tell the public to stay home. As of today, millions have died due to the coronavirus. We want to ensure we are doing all we can to keep our clients (children) and their families, as well as our supervisors as safe as we prepare to reopen for business.

In regard to supervised parenting time, where parenting time may be ordered to be supervised, there may also be limited availability due to COVID-19-related issues or government orders. The parties should continue to work collaboratively to ensure parenting time continues to occur in a manner that promotes their children's safety and wellbeing, such as finding alternative supervision options and locations to conduct supervised visitations safely. If that is not possible, then the parenting time should be with *TCA* to be conducted virtually via videoconferencing or by telephone.

# *The Children's Advocate*®

As *The Children's Advocate* proceed to move forward with reopen our mobile doors to offer full services, we committed to the procedures and precautions listed for all supervisors and clients.

We shall adhere to:

1. During visits, continue to practice good hygiene
  - a. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
  - b. Avoid touching your face or your child's face.
  - c. Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
  - d. Help your child learn how to practice good hygiene during parenting time.
  - e. Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible. Once supervised visits are open again to be conducted in private locations, such as homes or transporting children in personal cars, please ensure doorknobs, drawer/cabinet handles, car seats, seatbelts, light switches, counter tops, remote controls, tablets, cell phones, etc. are disinfected directly before visit.
  - f. Use face coverings while in public. Therefore, helping your child get comfortable using face coverings while in public is very important at this time. Yet, it is the parents' decision to decide what's in the best interest of the children in regard to the children wearing masks during the full duration of the visit.
2. If either parent or child is feeling sick, notify the other parent and/or supervisor promptly and cancel.
  - a. Parenting time should be rescheduled immediately to reflect a time parent's or child's illness has come to an end.
  - b. Inform supervisor of any health histories that may suggest individuals with asthma are at a higher risk for getting very sick or developing respiratory complications related to COVID-19.

## The Children's Advocate<sup>®</sup>

3. Social distancing: Use your best efforts to stay 6 ft. apart from third parties and keep your child 6 ft. apart. Supervisors will maintain an appropriate distance during visit yet close enough to adequately supervise and document interactions between children and visiting parent.
4. Exchanges:
  - a. If your child is old enough to walk to the other parent safely, exchange the child from a 6 ft. distance.
  - b. If your child is not old enough to walk to the other parent safely, wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before the exchange and wear a face covering during the physical exchange of the child
  - c. Transport your child to and from parenting time so your child doesn't need to ride in a car
5. With the supervisor:
  - a. Outdoor locations for supervised parenting time are preferred whenever possible
  - b. Avoid crowded locations where social distancing is difficult or where people gather in large groups.
  - c. Supervisor should practice social distancing and good hygiene before, during, and after supervised visitation.
  - d. Supervisor option to wear face covering at all times
  - e. Supervisor and parents should carry hand sanitizer or disinfecting wipes whenever possible

*The Children's Advocate will continue to aim to execute services in safe environments that promote positive emotional, physical, and mental well-being for our #1 clients, the children. Thank you for your trust in us throughout the years!*