

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING VISITATION IN CHILD PROTECTION CASES**

No party has requested this Standing Order. Rather, this order is a Standing Order of the Child Protection Court of the 50<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court (the "Court") and this Standing Order is being issued by the Court in response to Governor Abbott's state of disaster declaration and pursuant to the emergency orders issued by the Supreme Court of Texas regarding the COVID-19 state of disaster and pursuant to the authority granted to the Court by Section 263.108(b), Texas Family Code, and other applicable law, and this Standing Order applies to every suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (the "Department") in the 50<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Courts in the counties of Baylor, Cottle and Knox.

**IT IS ORDERED** that, while the Department is encouraged to continue to allow visitation between children and families to the extent feasible consistent with applicable federal, state and local orders and guidelines for the protection of the health and safety of the public, the Department is granted the authority to modify any visitation plan filed with the Court and any visitation order issued by the Court in an effort to avoid the risks associated with the COVID-19 virus and as necessary to protect the interests of children and families. This authority shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (i) the suspension of all in-person visits; (ii) the arrangement of telephone or video communication; and (iii) any other modification deemed appropriate by the Department in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department's State Office.

**IT IS ORDERED** that the Department shall notify all parties of a modification made to any visitation plan or visitation order issued by the Court; if a party objects to such modification, the party may file a written motion with the Court stating the objection and requesting the Court review the modification pursuant to Section 263.108, Texas Family Code.

**IT IS ORDERED** that this Order shall remain in effect until thirty (30) days after the Governor's state of disaster is lifted.

**SIGNED** this 30th day of March, 2020.

*Juanita Pawlick* Assigned  
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JUDGE PRESIDING