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6 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
7 JUVENILE DIVISION
8 COUNTY OF SOLANO
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10 **STANDING ORDER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING IN-PERSON VISITATION WITH**
11 **FOSTER CHILDREN DURING THE SOLANO COUNTY SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER**
12 **DUE TO COVID-19**

13 On March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California declared a State of
14 Emergency due to the introduction and spread of the international COVID-19 virus. On
15 March 13, 2020 the President of the United States of America also declared a National
16 Emergency. As of March 17, 2020, the Center for Disease Control reported 4,226 cases
17 and 75 deaths due to COVID-19. As of March 18, 2020, there are numerous and
18 increasing known cases of COVID-19 in Solano County.

19 As of March 18, 2020, the Solano Public Health Officer issued an Order
20 applicable to all individuals living in the County of Solano to Shelter in Place and
21 directing all businesses and governmental agencies to cease non-essential operations
22 within the county, and to prohibit all non-essential gatherings of any numbers of
23 individuals or non-essential travel. Said Order is effective until June 1, 2020, with
24 violations punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both (California Health and Safety Code
25 120295). The Shelter in Place Order has resulted in closure of agencies providing
services to dependent children and their families, including visitation services as they
are not enumerated essential services or essential businesses.

1 Welfare and Institutions Code section 361.2 mandates that visitation between
2 children in out-of-home care and their parents must be as frequent as possible,
3 consistent with the well-being of the child. Section 361.2 also outlines the importance of
4 preserving and promoting sibling relationships. This court and collaborative partners
5 recognize that visitation is vital for health and wellbeing of children and families. Given
6 the extent of the COVID-19 emergency/pandemic and the Shelter in Place Orders, it is
7 not reasonable to require dependent children, their parents and resource families to
participate in visitation at this time.

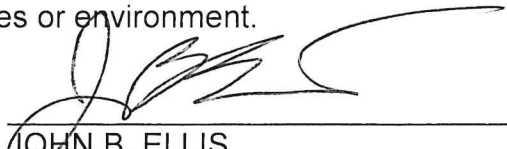
8 Balancing the conflict between the legal mandates to support reunification and
9 the safety of all participants in the dependency system, the court finds it appropriate and
urgent to make the following orders:

- 10 1. Court-ordered visitation between children placed out of home and their
11 parents or guardians or siblings or others shall be suspended temporarily for
12 the duration of the Shelter in Place Orders unless in person visitation can be
13 done in a safe manner utilizing social distancing practices.
- 14 2. The Department shall implement virtual visitation via telephone, cellphone,
15 computer, FaceTime, Skype, or other similar technology for non-physical
16 contact in an effort to maintain communication between children and their
parents during this time if in person visitation remains unsafe.

17 This order is effective immediately and shall continue until June 1, 2020. This
18 issue shall be reassessed by the Juvenile Court on or before May 31, 2020 to determine
19 whether extension of this order is necessary for the safety of children, their biological
families, their resource parents, and service providers.

20 This order is intended to meet the statutory requirement pursuant to Welfare and
21 Institutions Code Section 19 that protective services are fully provided to dependent
22 children to ensure that the physical, mental and moral welfare of the children are not
threatened by their present circumstances or environment.

23 DATED: 5-15-20

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JOHN B. ELLIS
25 Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court