

CIRCULAR

Date: June 11, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID#: 2020-10 UPDATE

To: Authorities, Adoption Agencies, CYSD staff

Subject: Information Pertaining to COVID-19

Program(s): All

Type: Policy For Internal Reference Only
 Procedure Information Only

Effective Date Immediately

Topic: Update to Adoption/Post Adoption Guidelines

Updated practice guidelines are attached for adoptions, post-adoption services, and intercountry adoptions, based on current recommendations from public health officials.

The following is a summary of some key changes, but please review the guidelines for complete information:

- All requirements and time frames set out under the Adoption Regulation apply, however activities that require face-to-face meetings or other approvals have been modified to respect social distancing.
- Effective immediately, home visits for homestudy assessments or clients who have moved or renovated can now occur. Before going on a home visit, ensure no one in the home is ill and reschedule if this is the case.
- Agency staff may consider completing the post-placement reports via a telephone and/or online interview if there are imminent time constraints. At this time, we have not received communications from States of origin as to whether they will accept post placement reports without face-to-face meetings, so it will be their decision if this approach is acceptable.
- Adoption services have been resumed. For complete information on how processes in each division may be impacted by COVID-19, please see the attached guidelines.

Post-adoption services will continue to be provided without face-to-face meetings. Clients are encouraged to call or email their inquiries and the requirement of a witness continues to be waived.

Sarah Thiele | Assistant Deputy Minister
Child and Youth Services