

Updated Aug. 10, 2020
Created March 19, 2020

Children & Family Services Division - Adoption Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions

Will home visits for adoption placements continue?

Visits will continue whenever possible; Licensed Child Placing Agencies will follow guidance related to Home Visit Precautions (guidelines available at dhs.nd.gov).

Will required home assessments for adoptive families continue?

In-home visits conducted for the purpose of assessment will continue to the greatest extent possible. Staff conducting home visits will be advised to follow the protocols established for home visits (available at dhs.nd.gov).

Will an upcoming adoption finalization be disrupted by the pandemic?

It is possible that certain court functions will be suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff working with adoptive families will advise families who have finalization hearings scheduled to consult with their attorneys.

<https://www.ndcourts.gov/emergency-order-and-pandemic-response>

Is there any anticipated impact on subsidy negotiations for subsidized adoption cases?

In most instances, the subsidy reviews can be conducted by mail **and email**. If a renegotiation is requested, it can be completed via telephone or email, as approved by the Zone Director.

Initial subsidy negotiations are generally conducted in person, but if authorized by the Zone director, these visits may be conducted telephonically.

Will Interstate Compact decisions be delayed?

Currently, most states have a no travel bans for staff related to Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC). Most workers in other states are tele-working and are able to continue to accept and process ICPC's, even if their workplaces have been disrupted.

Each state has different rules on the movement of children. Many states are screening children before moving them. Other states are not approving the ICPC, so no movement is taking place until further notice. This varies from state to state.

When completing of home studies in ND for the purposes of ICPC, workers should utilize the Home Visit Precaution Guidelines (available at dhs.nd.gov) and continue to follow the rules established by their own county/zone for visits/home studies.

(REVISED)

Will DHS continue with re-licensure activities for Licensed Child Placing Agencies (LCPA) and Maternity Homes?

Licenses have been issued for LCPA's. On-site visits will occur in fall 2020.

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

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