

**Superior Court of California  
County of Sacramento  
Sitting as the Juvenile Court**

In the Matter of

STANDING ORDER OF THE JUVENILE  
COURT

No. SSC-JV-09-078  
Department 90

**THIRD AMENDED ORDER:  
DEPENDENCY PRE- AND POST-  
DISPOSITION VISITATION  
[Welf. & Inst. Code § 362.1;  
Cal. Rules of Court, rule 5.670(g)]**

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, when the Court issues a child visitation order in a dependency case, either at the Initial Hearing or the Dispositional Hearing, the terms of this order shall apply.

**I. General Rules**

1. Visitation is the linchpin of family reunification. This Order is to be construed liberally in ensuring regular visitation by the parents/guardians, siblings, relatives and non-related extended family members with the child, consistent with the child's best interest and well-being.
2. At the Initial Hearing and Dispositional Hearing, the Court shall include a Visitation Order from those set forth in Section II. The Court may, considering the facts and circumstances of a particular case, modify any of the orders specified in Section II.
3. The Department of Child, Family and Adult Services (DCFAS) social worker shall provide visitation with the child under the terms described in this Order and the visitation order made by the Court.
4. The social worker shall determine the time, place, and manner of visitation with the child consistent with the visitation order made by the Court.
5. The social worker must consider the child's desires in administration of the visits,

but the child shall not be given the option to refuse all future visits.

6. Scheduled visits with the child by the parents/guardians which are cancelled through no fault of the parents/guardians shall be made up as soon as possible to account for the time lost due to cancellation. The parents/guardians shall be noticed of the date and time of the re-scheduled visit within 5 days of the missed visit by the social worker so as to make up the time lost due to the cancellation.
7. During visitation with the child, the parent/guardian, relatives and non-related extended family members shall comply with the following rules. Failure to comply with these rules shall result in the immediate termination of the visit.
  - a. **Under the Influence:** The parent/guardian, relatives and non-related extended family members shall not be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances at any visit.
  - b. **Subjects Discussed:** During visitation, the parent/guardian, relatives and non-related extended family members shall not discuss the following subjects with the child:
    - (1) court proceedings;
    - (2) the allegations in the petition;
    - (3) promises or predictions about the outcome of the case; or
    - (4) promises or predictions about placement issues.
8. In addition to the Visitation Order selected by the Court, the social worker is encouraged to arrange virtual visitation with a parent/guardian, siblings, relatives and non-related extended family members that are consistent with the Visitation Order. Virtual visitation means telephone, cellphone, computer, tablet, Facetime, Skype, Zoom or other similar technology for non-physical contact so as to **enhance** communication between children and their parents, guardians, sibling, relatives and nonrelated extended family members. These virtual contacts **do not replace** the minimum in person visits required by this Order.
9. In the discretion of the social worker, visits with relatives and non-related extended family members may be conducted without supervision or observation and may include

overnight and/or weekend visits. However, the social worker shall not permit such visits to extend more than seven (7) consecutive days without a court order as provided in Section III.

10. “Days” as provided in this order mean calendar days.

## **II. Types of Visitation Orders**

### **1. General Visitation Order**

- a. The manner of visits between the parent/guardian and the child may be supervised, observed or unsupervised, within the discretion of the social worker, and taking into consideration the specific facts of each case.
  - (1) Once visits have progressed to unsupervised, visits may be restricted to supervised or observed only if the immediate safety or well-being of the child would be compromised by a less restrictive manner of visitation.
  - (2) If the social worker exercises his or her discretion to change the visitation to be more restrictive, the social worker shall notify all parties and counsel as soon as possible after the decision is made, and at least two (2) days prior to the next scheduled visitation.
  - (3) The change shall remain in effect until the restriction is lifted in the discretion of the social worker.
- b. If the social worker determines visits shall be unsupervised they shall occur at a minimum of two (2) times per week for a minimum of two (2) hours per visit; if the visits are observed or supervised they shall occur at a minimum of two (2) times per week for a minimum of one (1) hour per visit.
- c. In the discretion of the social worker, overnight visits with the parent/guardian may only be permitted for not more than three (3) overnight visits in a seven (7) day period unless the social worker obtains a court order as provided in Section III.

### **2. Observed Visitation Order:**

- a. “Observed Visits” means that the parent/guardian visitation shall be directly

observed at all times by a monitor designated by the social worker, which may include relatives and Non-Related Extended Family Members. The parent/guardian and the child must remain in a direct line of sight of the monitor.

- b. If a Court orders Observed Visitation with the parent/guardian, visits shall occur at a minimum of two (2) times per week for a minimum of one (1) hour per visit.
- c. The monitor shall not permit any parent/guardian to be outside of the monitor's sight with the child at any time. However, the participants in the visitation are not required to be within conversational hearing distance of the monitor.
- d. At the request of any party, the monitor may permit others to attend observed visits as long as two (2) days advance notice is provided to the parent(s), child/children (if age appropriate), and the social worker. All parties must agree to allow the individual to attend the visit.
- e. The social worker has discretion to change an Observed Visitation Order to a more restrictive Supervised Visitation level only if the immediate safety or well-being of the child would be compromised by a less restrictive manner of visitation.
  - (1) The social worker shall notify all parties and counsel as soon as possible after the decision is made and no later than two (2) days prior to the next scheduled visitation.
  - (2) The change shall remain in effect until the restriction is lifted in the discretion of the social worker.

### **3. Supervised Visitation Order:**

- a. "Supervised Visitation" means that the parent/guardian visitation with the child shall be directly supervised **at all times** by a monitor designated by the social worker, which may include relatives and Non-Related Extended Family members. The monitor must understand the language used by the participants in the visit. The parent/guardian and the child must remain in a direct line of sight

and within conversational hearing distance of the monitor during a Supervised Visit.

- b. Supervised visits between a child and a parent/guardian shall occur at a minimum of two (2) times per week for a minimum of one (1) hour per visit.
- c. The designated monitor shall not leave the parent/guardian alone with the child at any time during the visitation.
- d. Only the designated monitor, the social worker, parents/guardians, child and siblings may be present in the area of supervision.

#### **4. Therapeutic Visitation/Contact Order:**

- a. “Therapeutic Visitation/Contact” means that the contact between the child and the parent/guardian shall only occur in the direct presence of, and in a setting determined by, a conjoint therapist who shall be designated by the social worker. There shall be no other contact permitted between the child and the parent/guardian unless otherwise authorized by the Court.
- b. Such therapeutic contact shall occur with the frequency and for the length of time determined by the social worker in consultation with the child’s therapist and the designated conjoint therapist.

### **III. Modification of Visitation Orders**

- 1. If the social worker believes changed circumstances exist concerning the immediate safety or well-being of the child, visitation may temporarily be suspended. All parties and their counsel of record must be notified of the suspension of visitation within five (5) days. The suspension shall not exceed fourteen (14) days in duration unless, during that period, the social worker files and serves a Welfare and Institutions Code section 388 petition to modify the Court’s prior visitation order. After the filing of the 388 petition, the suspension shall continue until the Court rules on the request for modification.

2. If the social worker believes that visitation should be less restrictive than that provided by the Court's Visitation Order and all parties are in agreement, a Stipulation and Request for Order Following Meet and Confer (JC\E-324) shall be filed with the court. If the parties cannot agree, the matter shall be brought before the court at the earliest possible time by means of petition to modify a court order pursuant to WIC section 388 (JV-180), for dependent children, or pursuant to Local Rule 7.35(A) (JC\E-319) for non-dependent children. In either case, less restrictive visitation cannot occur unless/until the court issues the order.
3. If the social worker wishes to offer a visit to a parent for more than three (3) overnights in a seven (7) day period, or a visit to a relative, or non-related extended family member for more than seven (7) consecutive days, and all parties agree, a Stipulation and Request for Order Following Meet and Confer (JC\E-324) shall be filed with the court. If the parties cannot agree, the matter shall be brought before the court at the earliest possible time by means of petition to modify a court order pursuant to WIC section 388 (JV-180), for dependent children, or pursuant to Local Rule 7.35(A) (JC\E-319) for non-dependent children. In either case, the extended visitation shall not occur unless/until the court issues the order.
4. If any party wishes to challenge the exercise of the social worker's discretion that is granted by this Standing Order or a specific Visitation Order, the party must file and serve a Welfare and Institutions Code section 388 petition to modify the Court's prior visitation order to limit the social worker's discretion.

Date: 6/15/2021



  
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Jerilyn Borack  
Judge of the Sacramento Juvenile Court