

RCCL responses to the FAQ's submitted on behalf of Together Georgia on 3/19/2020

* SAFE

Concerns about re-Evals, Ongoing New Evals, Conducting Home Studies Can these be done by Skype or other methods. If so, will direction come on what will be accepted, if not how will new homes be brought online?

As far as required re-evaluations, RCCL accepts these being done through Skype interviews or other interactive mediums such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc. If this is not available to a family, then a phone interview will suffice temporarily and when recommended quarantine is over, the re-evaluation can be updated with a home visit at that time. As far as new home studies, RCCL accepts the individual interviews be conducted virtually (Skype, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.) in order to get the home study started, but the physical home visit would still be required prior to approval of the home.

* Home Visits, etc.

How should we handle Home Visits, Home Inspections, Allegations about a particular home? Can we do these by phone and have parents/foster parents send pictures for documentation to show lock boxes for storage of medication, firearms

As far as routine monthly home visits, During this time frame when it is recommended that social distancing be practiced, RCCL would consider an agency "in compliance" if their monthly home visit documentation during the required social distancing (March and April so far) consisted of documentation that the visit was conducted via skype, facetime, etc. The visit documentation must still meet all of the home supervision requirements of the rules pertaining to the facility, including but not limited to a list of the persons virtually viewed and met with, adjustment of the family members, and any concerns that were discussed and resolutions that were provided.

As far as allegations in the home, there is not a blanket response that can be given for that. It depends on the allegation and would have to be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

*Extensions

Can an agency get an extension for due dates for monthly visits in homes with Children and quarterly for homes with no placements?

RCCL does not have a requirement for home visits when there is not a placement in the home. No, A minimum of monthly home visits is required, but the flexibility of those being conducted virtually has been added.

*New Family Members

If an additional family member has to move into an agency's home due to an emergency and we are unable to do the required screenings, will the agency be penalized even though OPM has been notified.

RCCL will accept an addendum to the home study based on a virtual meeting as discussed in the "Safe" home study response above. Child Placing Agency rules only require a name check for other adults living in the home and should be able to be obtained (also refer to the response under "fingerprinting" provided below). Inability to provide physician statements would need to be addressed on a case by

case basis, but the household member may be able to provide a statement from their doctor if they have received a physical in the past year.

***Prudent Parenting**

How does an agency handle when there is a need for extended prudent parenting days?

RCCL will follow the direction of OPM

***Overtime Costs**

If there is a need for increase overtime and incentive pay of our employees, will there be financial assistance from DFACS. (my position on this is agencies and other nonprofits will need to be aggressive about seeking some of the federal dollars)

Not RCCL Issue

***Active Covid-19 Case**

If we have an active case with a child or staff, what will DFACS response? Where will the children go until the all clear?

Not RCCL Issue

***Dental and Medical Appointments for Children** Have all no emergency medical and dental appointments been canceled. If not, can we assume that they will be?

Document cancelations by doctor or offices being closed for routine medical/dental.

***Fingerprinting**

CoGent and most other fingerprinting sites have temporarily shut down. How do we work around this for hiring new staff who will be needed to ramp up coverage? This will impact current applicants and opening of future homes.

As long as a Cogent/GEMALTO print site is available in the applicant's area, it is expected to try and obtain a fingerprint-based background check for those requiring one. If it is not currently available, then a Georgia Name Based check is required and should be forwarded to RCCL for review and as evidence, it has been completed. You should be able to obtain those through your local law enforcement agencies as you do for your employees. Fingerprints for those requiring them should be completed when normal operations return.

*** Judicial Involvement**

Many Judges are letting it be known they are in support of tele-supervised visits Can Support Services do this if it is approved/ordered by the Judge

Addressed in Home Visits above

***Contact W/ DFACS County Staff**

Will agencies provide the cell phone numbers of caseworkers and supervisors so an agency can reach them if they do not respond to emails or do we use the 800-number provided?

Not RCCL-Contact with us is available through email or phone. Contact the supervisor if you are having trouble reaching your surveyor.

***Foundations**

Will Foundations face to face trainings be delayed? If agency has new employee that needs the training, will the agency be sited if not met in the allotted time.

Not an RCCL requirement

*On-boarding Foster Parents

Will there be modifications to the 3 mandatory home visits. For example, Child is already in relative foster parent placement. There is elderly bedridden grandmother in the home. Because she is susceptible to the virus, agency does not want to send anyone in for a visit but without the three visits they are not getting paid and need to be paid. Suggestions??

Scenario does not match title. For required home visits, see "Home visits" above

Suggestions from our fearless leader Alison Evans with whom I agree

1. Relax Prudent Parenting Standards to allow CPAs and CCIs to make the best decisions about medical visits, secondary childcare (those outside of standard) as you might your own child when this is necessary due to this crisis.

See above. RCCL will follow DFCS Lead

2. Temporarily suspend contract/licensing violations and quarterly scoring unless they are egregious in nature, this might include but is not limited to the required ECEM, sibling visits etc. and other regulations around in home or on campus. AND Child to Staff supervision. If an agency has several staff out sick due to caring for their own family, we do not want to discharge and disrupt children if we cannot sustain the ratio. RCCL does not have ratios. There must be supervision however adequate to maintain the health and safety of the child. If not, you would need to call DFCS to inform them you are unable to keep the child healthy and safe and request their assistance and/or guidance.

This is a limited suspension We are asking that in these very trying times that you trust our very capable child welfare agencies to do what is best for Children!!

3. Create hotlist CCI/CPA beds who can handle an "emergency temporary placement" for foster family who is sick or if a CCI truly gets in crisis with sickness.... illness respite. This would need a predesignated rate for this short period. Not an RCCL call

***Additionally, RCCL is continuing the suspension of onsite visits to facilities for routine RL visits, monitoring visits, initial licenses, and foster home visits until the recommended social distancing and/or quarantine has been lifted. RCCL will continue to initiate on-site visits for complaints and/or self-reported incidents when deemed necessary by RCCL and as determined on a case-by-case basis.