



CASA OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA, INC.

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March 17, 2020

Dear Volunteers of CASA of Northeast Oklahoma,

I'm writing to update you on the measures CASA of Northeast Oklahoma is taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19 or the coronavirus. Yesterday evening, the Oklahoma CASA Association released some additional recommendations for local CASA programs, which were vastly different from previous recommendations. Additionally, the CDC revised its advice regarding large gatherings yesterday, limiting gatherings to groups of no more than 10 people.

In response, CASA of Northeast Oklahoma is revising some of the policies and procedures released yesterday. Beginning today at noon, our offices in Claremore and Miami will be closed to outside visitors. Please call the office at the numbers listed above if you need any assistance. In addition, each office will be staffed by only one person per day and will be sanitized daily. All other employees will be working remotely.

Your Advocate Coordinator has been instructed to make contact with you by phone no later than 5 p.m. on March 18, 2020 to discuss your casework and any next steps. We will be moving to FaceTime/Skype or telephonic visits through at least March 31, 2020. If you are well and the child is well and you are comfortable doing so, you may make an in-person visit after asking some questions of the caregiver. **You are under no obligation to make an in-person visit.** All other in-person visits – with family members, caregivers, educational contacts, therapists, etc. – are to be stopped until March 31, 2020. CASA of Northeast Oklahoma will not be hosting any in-person meetings until at least until March 31, 2020.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court has issued an order that **all** jury terms and court hearings shall be cancelled for the next 30 days. Please do not go to any of the courthouses without first speaking with your Advocate Coordinator. When court hearings and trials are rescheduled, we will contact you with the new date.

The Bartlesville training class, which is set to begin March 28th will instead begin on April 4th.

The most important thing you can do right now is to properly care for yourself or anyone else who is ill in your home and to protect yourselves and your families from getting ill. You can expect your Advocate Coordinator to check in more frequently with you through the end of the month. Please know that your health and well-being is of extreme importance to us.

This is a rapidly evolving situation which has created major disruptions for CASA of Northeast Oklahoma. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or your Advocate Coordinator.

Sincerely,

Angela Henderson
Executive Director