

Office of Public Defense Services

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April 8, 2020

Letter from Keren Farkas PCRP Manager, OPDS

Re: How to request OPDS Case Manager Consultation/Technical Assistance to Navigate COVID-19 Impact on Juvenile Clients

To Whom it May Concern:

COVID-19's constraints on visitation, service availability, court access and the economy are having a notable impact on children, youth and parents affected by the child welfare and juvenile delinquency systems. Given the changing landscape and its significant potential to impact the trajectory of representation of children, youth and parent clients in these proceedings – OPDS is facilitating attorney requests for case manager technical assistance/consultations to help attorneys navigate the changes and support clients.

Interested attorneys can contact OPDS' Case Manager Administrator, Dana Brandon to be connected with a case manager who can provide support and guidance around:

- Crisis Response
- Modifications in Service Plans
- Connecting clients with available resources
- Virtual Visitation
- General system navigation due to COVID-19 impacts

Please send requests or questions to Dana Brandon (<u>brandonsocialwork@gmail.com</u>) and cc: Caroline Meyer, Senior Program Analyst (<u>Caroline.E.Meyer@opds.state.or.us</u>).

Please note: these requests are appropriate for limited (1-5) hour consultations regarding issues directly related to COVID-19 impact. The regular NRE process for longer term/intensive support is also separately available.

Thank you and be well, Keren

Keren Farkas PCRP Manager Office of Public Defense Services keren.l.farkas@opds.state.or.us