

 <p>Children's Services Agency</p> <p>Communication Issuance</p> <p>20-055*</p> <p>*Revised 5/28/20</p> <p>Previous version obsolete</p>	Subject/Title	COVID 19 Response-Guidance on Relative Placement Safety Screen and Relative Placement Home Study Completion UPDATED
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Distribution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSA Central Office Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS BSC and County Directors <input type="checkbox"/> MDHHS Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS Child Welfare Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Tribes <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Workforce Development and Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Agency Child Welfare Managers/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Abuse/Neglect Managers/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

This version replaces prior versions of CI 20-055.

The following provides interim guidance for Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and contracted child placing agency staff regarding completion of the MDHHS-5770, Relative Placement Safety Screen, and DHS-3130A, Relative Placement Home Study, during the COVID-19 pandemic. When a child is removed from their home, priority must be given to placing the child with a relative. Efforts to identify and assess relatives must continue as required.

Preferred – Complete the MDHHS-5770 and 3130A remotely by completing the questions over the phone with pertinent relatives and then using Skype, FaceTime, or other available technology to complete a virtual walk-through of the inside of the home. If a safety concern is identified, consult your supervisor to determine whether an on-site inspection is necessary to further assess the home and assure safety.

Back-Up Option – If you cannot complete the MDHHS-5770 and 3130A remotely, including the use of technology to view the inside of the home, then complete an in-person, on-site inspection of the home environment to verify it is safe and appropriate.

Whenever engaging in in-person contact, staff should adhere to all safety precautions to limit exposure to or spread of COVID-19 (e.g., social distancing, washing hands, refrain from touching surfaces, etc.) and if possible a strike team member should be utilized to minimize in-person, on-site contact.

**Unless a safety concern is identified and cannot be remedied, the inability to conduct an in-person screening or assessment may not preclude placement with an otherwise qualified relative.*

Required Documentation:

Staff must continue to complete the MDHHS-5770 and DHS-3130A in MiSACWIS within the required timeframes. Please review CI 20-045, *COVID-19 Response-Caseworker Contacts in MiSACWIS*, for guidance on how to accurately document contacts.