

Take a Stand for Illinois Families: **Tell DCFS to Lift the Ban on Supervised Visits**

During this time, staying connected with loved ones is as important as ever for a child's well-being. [Since March](#), children of over 11,200 parents have been subjected to a Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) policy banning supervised, in-person visits with their parents and siblings.

The Ban Will Cause Long-Lasting Harm to Black, Brown, and Low-Income Families and Communities

- [Families of color and those living in poverty are overrepresented in the foster system](#) and therefore are disproportionately impacted.
- The permanent trauma caused by the ban is its own public health crisis. Children separated from their families are at high risk for [physical and mental health consequences of interrupted parent/child bonding](#).
- DCFS' ban has jeopardized families' ability to reunify and access the courts and has exacerbated the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on Black, Brown, and low-income communities.



Families Across the State Have Been Fighting This Ban for Months

Cook County mother Quincita Fleming was cut off from breastfeeding her infant until her supply dried up, and video calls with her young children are often cut short:

"I don't know if [my youngest child] knows it's me. Infants know their mother's scent...It's very emotional for me, because I can't put myself with each one of them through a phone screen."

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McHenry County grandmother Wendy DeGrand has been cut off from seeing her 4-year-old grandchild:

“We must expose the horrible truths that have been done to our family and so many others by this broken system. We love this child and just want her with a family who so desperately loves and misses her.”



The Ban Contradicts Expertise on How to Support Families

- Parents seeking reunification with their children should not be penalized for suffering consequences of the pandemic.
- The ban contravenes court orders, Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order, health experts’ warnings, [child advocates’ recommendations](#), [federal guidance](#) and law, and DCFS’ own rules.

Take Action: Tell Illinois to Keep Families Together!

Join us in urging DCFS to act in the best interest of families by retracting the ban and facilitating the return of supervised visits.

- **Talk about this injustice with your community, neighbors, local leaders, and community organizations to share the stories of Illinois families impacted by DCFS’ actions.**
- **Call and email your elected officials to let them know you are opposed to DCFS’ ban on supervised visits and want to stand behind family reunification.**
- **Invite impacted parents and siblings to speak out by connecting them with The Shriver Center.**