



Family Friends (virtual support)
Combating Stress and Isolation through Virtual Relationship
One Call to One Family Once a Week

In response to the outbreak of COVID-19 and mandates for social distancing, we are now offering families the option of Family Friend **virtual support.*

Why? Children in our community are at an increased risk for maltreatment due to increased stress and social isolation.

Families are experiencing increased stress and isolation during the pandemic. Stress and isolation increase the risk of maltreatment of children. Safe Families for Children has been fighting social isolation since day ONE. We want to prevent potential cases of abuse and neglect by surrounding families with social support. Our goals are to keep kids safe and families intact.

How? Offer hope and encouragement to overwhelmed families through virtual connections.

Family Friends (virtual support) are volunteers who provide support to isolated and struggling families through connections by phone, text, Facetime, or other video conferencing. Family Friends are committing to connect with families at least *1 time a week for 6 months*. One big plus to this new method is that location is no longer an obstacle to meeting.

Approval Process: Once approved, our staff will match you with a waiting family.

Step 1: Fill out an online application and provide 3 references (1 pastoral and 2 personal):
<https://newyorkcity.safe-families.org/volunteer-application/>. Select "New York City, NY" as the region in the drop down menu.

Step 2: Schedule a brief 45 minute video interview with our Family Support Coordinator, Hilary Yeo:
nyc@safefamilies.net.

Step 3: Complete background screenings (instructions will be given during interview): Statewide Central Registry for Child Abuse and Neglect and GoPass Fingerprinting.

Step 4: Watch the online volunteer training (2 1/2 hours and can be viewed in short segments).

For any questions on the approval process, please contact Hilary Yeo at nyc@safefamilies.net or (646) 907-3039.

<https://newyorkcity.safe-families.org>