**Child Contact and Access through Covid-19**

**“It may be easier, given the generally increased levels of anxieties, to collude with perpetrators’ justifications around controlling custody and access due to COVID-19”**

**David Mandel, Founder & Executive Director of the Safe & Together Institute**

Covid-19 gives perpetrators of abuse further opportunity to coerce and control their partner/ex-partner. As helpers, it’s vital that we keep focused on victim safety (non-abusive parent and any children). We can best do this by avoiding any opportunity to hold victims responsible for their abuse and not losing sight of perpetrators coercive controlling behaviour and responsibilities as a parent.

Here are a couple of useful links to COVID-19 related blogs and videos that can provide helpful insights as you continue to practice through these challenging times.



Part 2: COVID-19, Custody & Access and Domestic Abuse: How to assess and respond

<https://safeandtogetherinstitute.com/blog-series-safe-together-in-a-time-of-crisis-part-2/>

Partnering with survivors in a time of crisis and challenge – 15 minute video

https://www.facebook.com/266015210080817/videos/835700246912112/

**Information for victims/Survivors**

 **I left an abusive relationship and there are child contact arrangements in place, how can I comply with them during social distancing/self-isolation?**

This depends on the child contact arrangements in place and various factors. We’re working on producing some general guidance and we will post it on our website very soon.

In the meantime, the government has confirmed that parents are allowed to transport children under 18 years old between households to facilitate contact. This means that contact can continue during the ‘lockdown’, although this will of course depend on the circumstances of each case.

For now, you can [**call our legal helpline**](https://www.scottishwomensrightscentre.org.uk/helpline/) to find out what you can do about child contact arrangements while the coronavirus pandemic is ongoing. Alternatively, if you already have a solicitor, get in touch with them for advice.

<https://www.scottishwomensrightscentre.org.uk/news/covid-19coronavirus-info/domestic-abuse-during-covid-19coronavirus-what-can-i-do/>

