

'Clif Notes' on Interpreting Seneca Searches

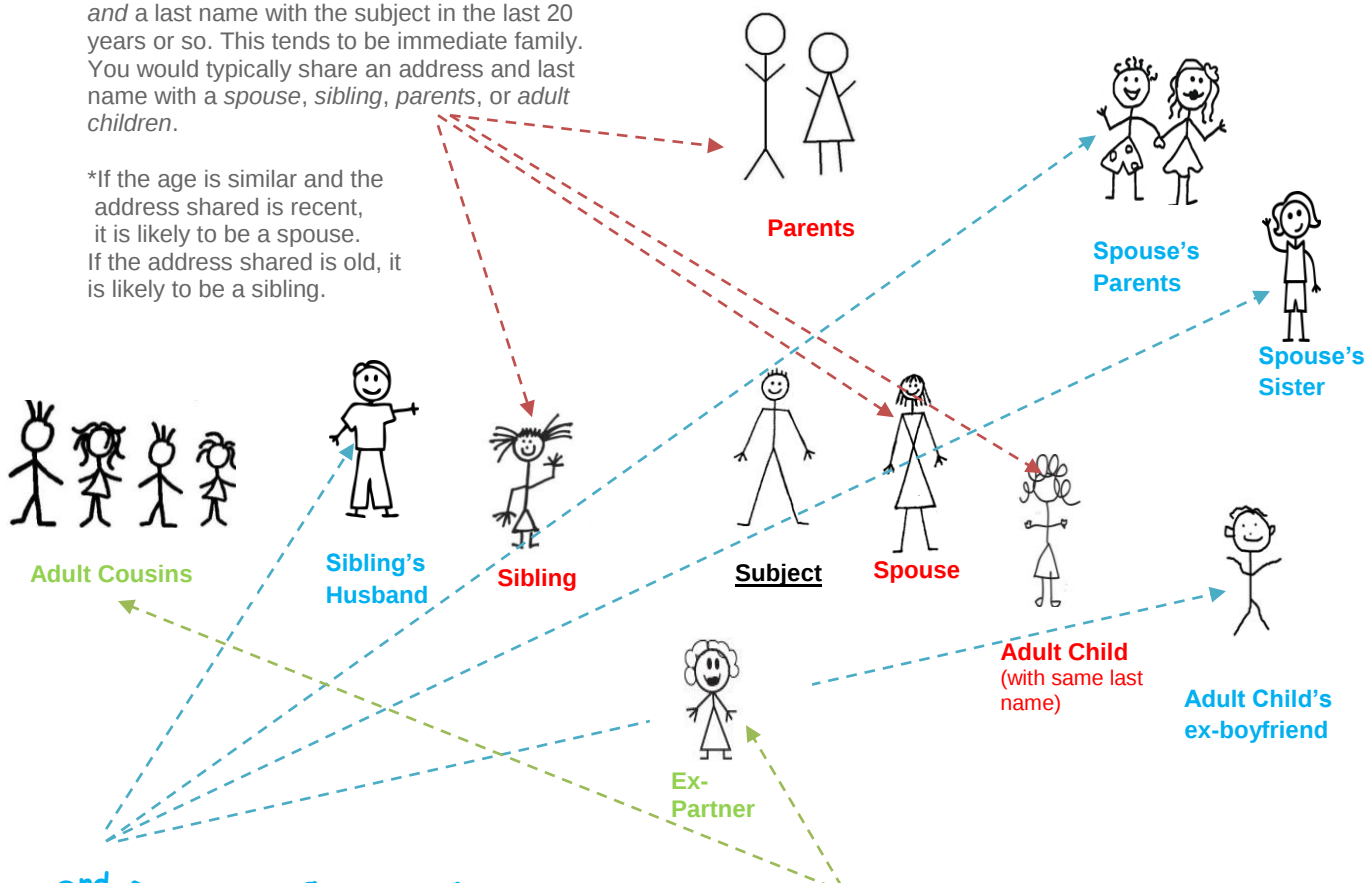
What is a Seneca Search? A customized search report on a subject of interest. An experienced search agent accesses multiple search databases to compile up to 30 years of address history for a subject, listed phone numbers, aliases, death notices, up to 30 possible relatives, up to 20 possible family connections, and neighbors with listed phone numbers.

Family Connections: All connections are based around the subject of the report. Think about how you fit in with your own family connections to help conceptualize the following relationships.

1st Degree Connection:

This is someone who has shared an address and a last name with the subject in the last 20 years or so. This tends to be immediate family. You would typically share an address and last name with a spouse, sibling, parents, or adult children.

*If the age is similar and the address shared is recent, it is likely to be a spouse. If the address shared is old, it is likely to be a sibling.



2nd Degree Connection:

Second degree connections are the first degree connections of the subject's first degree connections. This could be someone that the subject's sibling or spouse shared an address and a last name with. These tend to be in-laws. It could also be an ex-spouse of a current spouse. Be aware that these connections may need more information to discern how they are related to the subject.

Associates:

These are people who shared more than one address with the subject, but did not share the same last name. This category captures people like long-term partners, or parents, siblings and adult children with different last names.

*Finding many associates with the same last name may indicate that they are relatives from another branch of the family (i.e. cousins).

Helpful Tips:

1st and 2nd Degree Connections: This terminology is defined as noted above and is not related to degrees of relatives used for legal purposes of determining inheritance or kinship.

Contact Attempts: First degree connections are a good place to start contact attempts. They are likely to have a connection to your subject, but be aware that mistakes can be made. For example, if the subject has a common last name, like Jones, and a history of living in apartments in a large metropolitan area, the search report may pull other families with the last name Jones that have also lived in that apartment building but are of no relation. Be prepared to learn that the person is not related and explain to them how the mistake may have been made. *If the last name of the subject is uncommon and the person indicates that they are not related, you may want to push a little more to ensure that they do not think you are a bill collector or solicitor.

Contacting 2nd degree connections can be a good resource as well. Sometimes an ex-partner has a lot of information they are willing to share about a family without the concern of family loyalties. If you connect with a brother's ex-wife, or a brother's wife's mother, this person may need more prompting to recognize the subject you are calling about.

Possible Relationship: Under 1st and 2nd degree relatives you will see a "possible relationship". This is an educated guess about how the connection *might* be related to the subject. For example, if the connection shares a last name, is close in age to the subject *and* they shared addresses 20 years ago, but not currently, it may be a sibling. If they share a last name, are close in age and shared addresses recently, but not long ago, it is more likely a spouse. There are always exceptions, and this is only a good guess. Be sure to clarify relationships when you contact people.

Order of Addresses: Typically, the most recent address is at the top of the list, but not always. Look at the *end date* of addresses rather than the "from" date to determine which is most current.

Phone numbers: Phone numbers listed in the report are the *current* published phone number for the address they are listed under. If the subject no longer lives at the address noted, there is a remote possibility that the person that currently lives there has some information. They may have bought the house from the subject, or heard about the apartment from the subject. It also could be a family home that the subject moved out of but other family still lives at. Be prepared that the person you are calling may not know your subject.

Associates: To get a better idea of who your best bets might be under associates, take a look at all of the subject's addresses and compare them to the associates address histories. If there are 2, 3 or more shared addresses between your subject and any given associate, it is very likely there is some connection there.

Neighbors: Neighbors are determined by taking the most recent address for the subject and looking for neighbors with published phone numbers. Sometimes a neighbor in an apartment or even a house might know your subject and be willing to leave them a note indicating that you are trying to get in touch with them.

Family Connections Chart: This chart is located at the end of the report. The subject is in the middle of the chart and 1st degree connections, 2nd degree and then associates wrap around the subject in an expanding circle. The chart can be useful to pull out when talking with connections about who they know and gathering more information on how they are related.

Questions, Assistance: Family Finding coaches are available to further assist with understanding and utilizing Seneca Searches.