

FAMILY FINDING

Parent/Guardian notification of service initiation

Re:

Date:

Family Finding aims to reestablish connections between children in out-of-home care and their relatives and provide lifelong supports for children. The most important factor contributing to positive outcomes for children in out-of-home care is meaningful connections and lifelong relationships with family.

The best outcomes will be achieved when all family members support the goal. The information on this form is intended to provide you with a basic understanding of the Family Finding program. More information can be received in both verbal and written form by meeting with the Family Finding specialist. Clients/guardians should obtain the information they need to feel comfortable with the purpose and goals of the program.

The Family Finding specialist will identify, locate, contact, and engage family members to participate in providing information helpful to the child. The needs of the child (for support, affection, safety, a forever family, etc) are the primary focus of all communications and program activities. Family members may be asked to participate in planning (through Family Conferencing) for the successful future of the child. Additionally it is important to work urgently on behalf of the child. Through the Family Finding process, family members will hear confidential information about the child and learn about their need for life-long support and affection. Family members will have a voice in the permanency planning process but the court will have the final authority. Family members may have an opportunity to meet with the child if it is deemed safe and appropriate and if the family member can provide information, connection, support, affection, or potentially, a forever family. The family/planning team will work urgently to make a difference for the child and be fully informed of the consequences of failing to achieve a forever family. Participating family members who can make a long-term commitment to provide ongoing support for the child will formalize their plan using a Permanency Pact.

When children have been previously adopted, Family Finding will seek to engage appropriate biological family who are no longer legal relatives. The decision to do this will be made by the child and the team, jointly. A court order will be obtained to allow for this when necessary. If your child was adopted please consider the effect this could have on both your child's life and your life. Your child may gain information about biological family that is important to his/her identity. Your child may gain a support network through appropriate biological family. You and your family could potentially be put in contact with biological family members of your adopted child. Secondary disclosure of biological family information could occur between your adopted child in foster care and a sibling who is still in your home. The Family Finding specialist will encourage open discussion with you and the team about these eventualities.

It is vital that we work together so that your child has an opportunity to have important connections to family. Please contact me to discuss your family and so that I can answer any questions you have about this program.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Family Finding Specialist

Phone:

Email: