

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A Casey Family Services Compilation

Family Finding as a Permanency Strategy



MANY CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE LOSE CONTACT WITH FAMILY AND ADULTS WHO ARE IMPORTANT TO THEM – BIRTH FAMILY, EXTENDED FAMILY, GODPARENTS, FORMER FOSTER PARENTS, AND OTHERS. THESE CONNECTIONS OFTEN ARE NOT DOCUMENTED IN STATE RECORDS, YET THEY CAN PROVE INVALUABLE IN THE PERMANENCY TEAMING PROCESS.

Adults who know a child may agree to serve on a child's planning and decision-making team, know how to locate and involve other important adults, and potentially become permanency resources for the child.

Family finding reconstructs a child's relationships over time. The process includes: talking with the child, his or her family, and past and present caregivers; mining the child's case records for adult connections; and engaging adults who are located through the process in problem solving on the child's behalf. Internet technologies such as US Search can be invaluable in family finding; perhaps more important is an assertive outreach mentality and the ability to talk with children and adults about planning with and for a child.

This is a developing bibliography. Please send suggested additions to lglasheen@caseyfamilyservices.org. All Internet documents were retrieved in February 2009.

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