

Family Finding: A Pivotal Role in Team Collaborating, Advocating, and Connecting Families

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Agenda

- Overview
- Who do we Collaborate with and Advocate for
- Why - Statistics / Data
- How - Services offered
- Q&A



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Family Finding: What is it?

Family Finding Specialist (FFS) are a small, specialized group of Child and Family Services Specialists (CFSS) within the Department of Health and Human Services

FFS collect detailed information on family or kin to help CFSS & RKSS make informed decisions regarding placement and support needs of the children

FFS collaborate with CFSS and Relative Kin Services Specialist (RKSS) to identify family or kin of children that need a place to live or need support in some way.

FFS can assist with contacting family and kin to gauge their willingness to provide a home for the children, respite, or support of some kind.

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Who we collaborate with and advocate for



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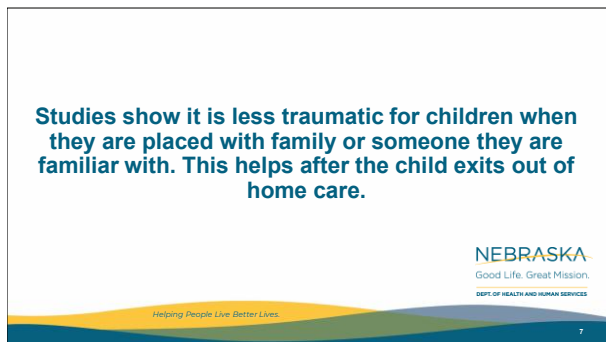
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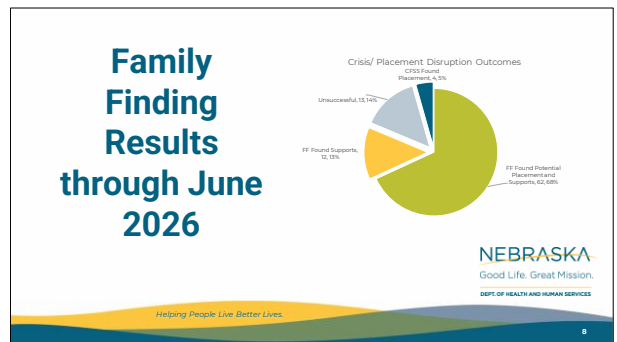
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Family Finding Services Offered

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Genogram

Family Search

Crisis

Placement Disruption

Locating Respite

Non-custodial parent search (NCP)

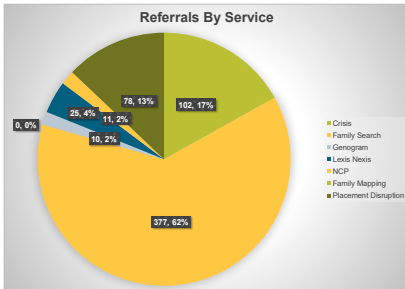
Lexis Nexis

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Referrals By Service



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Genogram

➤ FFS can build a Genogram/Family Tree, to assist a CFSS or RKSS in understanding the family dynamics of the child(ren) in their care.

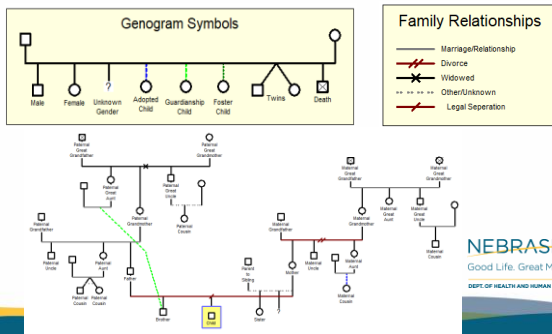
➤ A Genogram is also nice to give an older youth who may be interested in a visual representation of their family.



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Family Search

- Possible placement
- Respite
- Offering rides
- Sending letters/cards
- Making phone calls

A Family Search builds on the Genogram by developing a contact spreadsheet. FFS will gather as much contact information as possible for the relatives or kin who are discovered.

CFSS & RKSS will then have a working list of relatives that can be contacted at any time in hopes of supporting the children in a variety of ways:

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Crisis

This is requested should a child be faced with a removal or need an immediate placement or emergency respite.

FFS works to complete
in one day from start
to close –
Communication with
CFSS or RKSS is key

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Placement Disruption

Like a crisis except it is not immediate

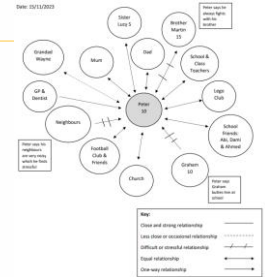
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Family Mapping

- Additional Effort
- Broader scope than only safety
- Beneficial if the family is not opening up to their caseworker.



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Non-Custodial Parent Search & Lexis Nexis

NCP



Lexis Nexis

- Gives relatives, neighbors, associates
- Name and possible relationship
- SSN, DOB, Address, phone
- Dates of death, address changes
- Can be incorrect
- Often overwhelming

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Assisting with contacts

- Identify self
- Confirm connection with youth
- Make request
- Ask if any other relatives around
- Confirm address
- Share CFSS contact info
- All documented



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Conclusion

Connecting and advocating for family / kin placement and supports for children reduces the trauma of being placed in out of home care and sets children up for a better life.

NE Department of Health and Human Services Family Finding Team is a big part of making this connection possible.

Collaboration between Child and Family Services Specialists, Relative Kin Specialists, Placement Specialists, and community agencies is key to our success.

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Q & A

Thank you for joining us

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