



# Family Finding and Engagement Coaching

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**SAFE  
STRONG  
SUPPORTIVE**

casey family programs

# Who are we and what do we do?

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- Casey has 9 field office along the west coast
- Prevention work to keep youth in homes with birth family or fictive kin
- Family finding to search for permanent connections and/or achieve legal permanency
- Work with a sense of urgency
- Priority population are youth who have been in care long term age 11 and older

# What is Permanency?

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- Safe, stable, legal, permanent living situation for a youth in care, the paramount outcome for the child welfare system along with safety and improving child and family well-being.
- Two types of permanency: legal and relational

# Positive Permanency

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That all children leaving foster care exit into a permanent setting, which involves a legal relationship to family.

- Reunification with a parent or parents
- Transfer of custody to a relative or extended family member
- Adoption

- What happens when permanency is not achieved?

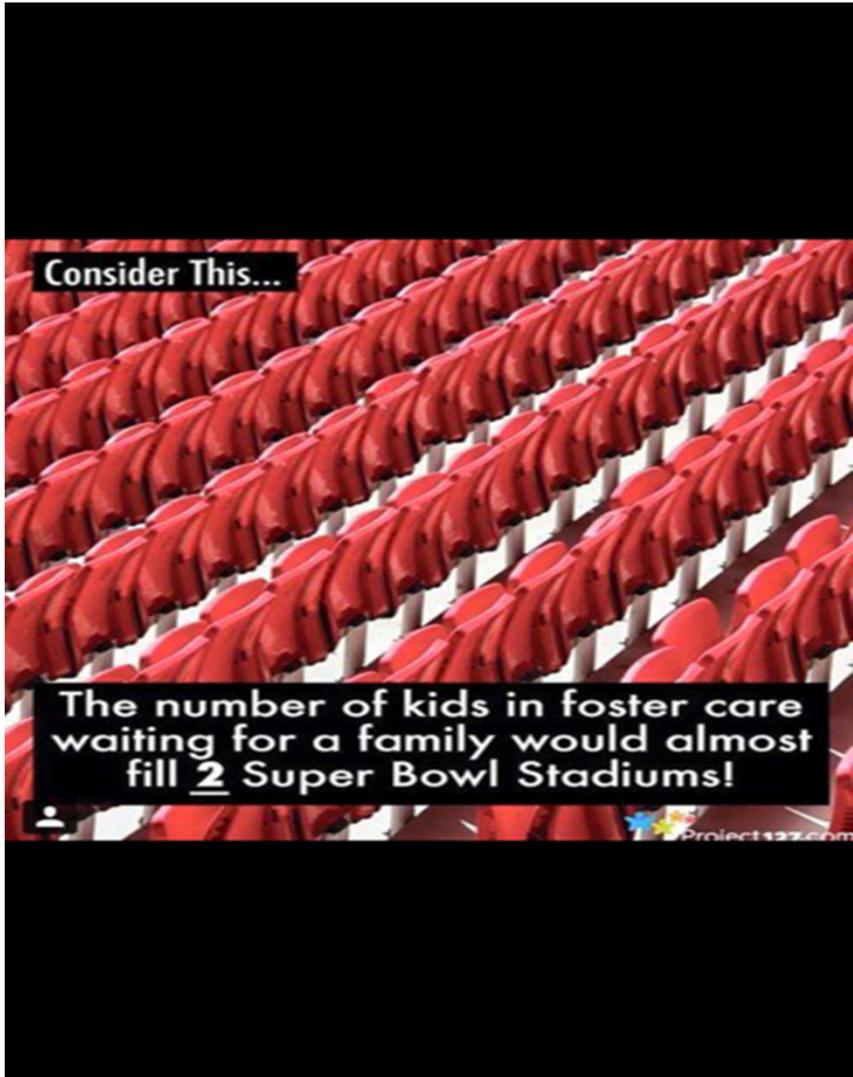
## Comparison of Young Adult Outcomes

### *A Youth's Lack of Permanency Has Severe Consequences...*

	Former Foster Youth	General Population
Currently Employed	48%	76%
Median Earnings	\$8,000	\$18,300
Have a Bank Account	< 50%	85%
Have Health Insurance	57%	78%
Been Pregnant ( <i>Female</i> )	> 75%	40%
Impregnated a Partner ( <i>Male</i> )	61%	28%
High School Diploma or GED	➔	3 X more likely
Have been Homeless or Couch-Surfed	37%	1%

# Delaware Stats- Feb 2017

- About 10% of foster care placements were in kinship homes
- Foster Care- approved relative 5
- Foster Care- Relative non-approved 69 (do not receive payment)
- In DFS Foster Care placement 694



**Consider This...**

**The number of kids in foster care waiting for a family would almost fill 2 Super Bowl Stadiums!**



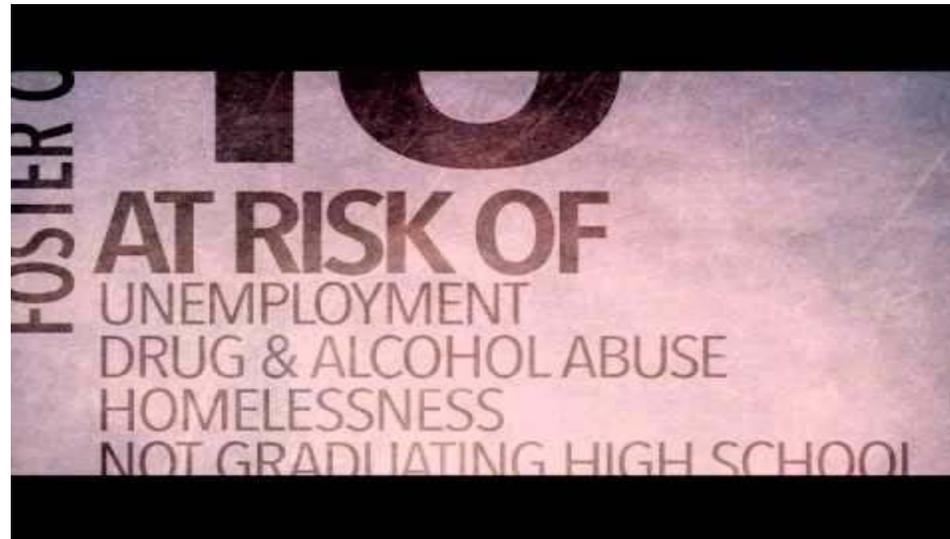
[Project133.com](http://Project133.com)

# SAFE STRONG SUPPORTIVE

Family Finding and Engagement

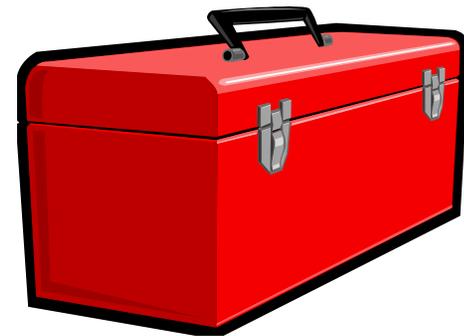
## WHERE DO WE GO NEXT?

# Finding Connections is Critical



# Family Finding Tools

- Case Mining
- Genograms
- Eco-Maps
- Circles of Support
- Mobility/Placement Mapping



# Case Mining

- Investigation History
- Previous Home Studies (esp. references)
- Family Team Meeting Notes
- Therapy Notes
- Court Reports
- **For reentries into care, look at original CPS records**

# Case Mining

- Create a genogram and eco-map as you case mine.
- Identify youth's previous neighborhoods, churches, schools and activities for possible outreach.
- Identify caregivers and friends in past placements.

# Delaware CPS Database: FACTS

- Computer-generated list of case participants
- Computer-generated summary of case information
- Child Service Plan
- Narratives

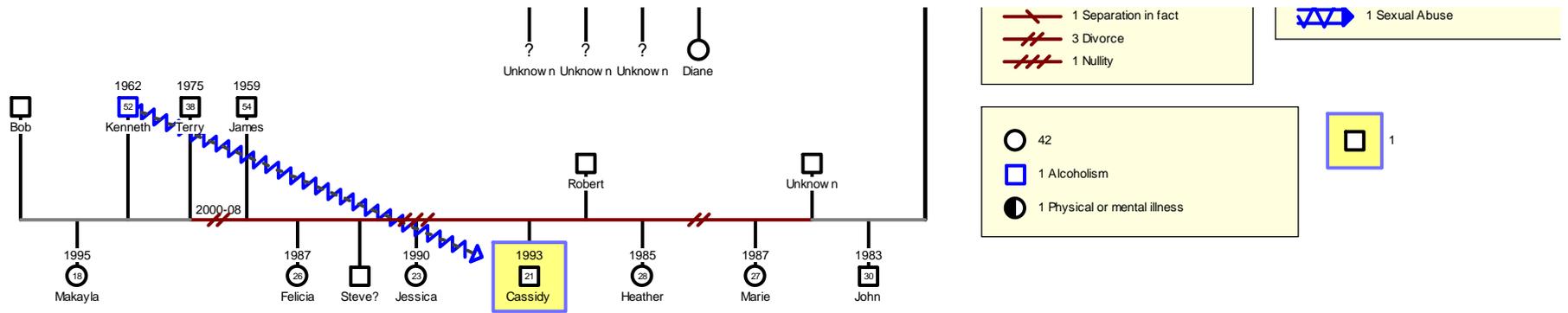
# Internet Searches

- Search birth records, death records, and property searches.
- Social Media
- Obituaries are a rich source of family information and often detail relationships between family members.
- **Document and track your results.**

# Case Mining/Finding Connections Activity

- Home Study and Investigation Report
- Identify as many people or groups as you can follow-up with to find possible permanent connections.
- **Adopt the mindset of a detective.**

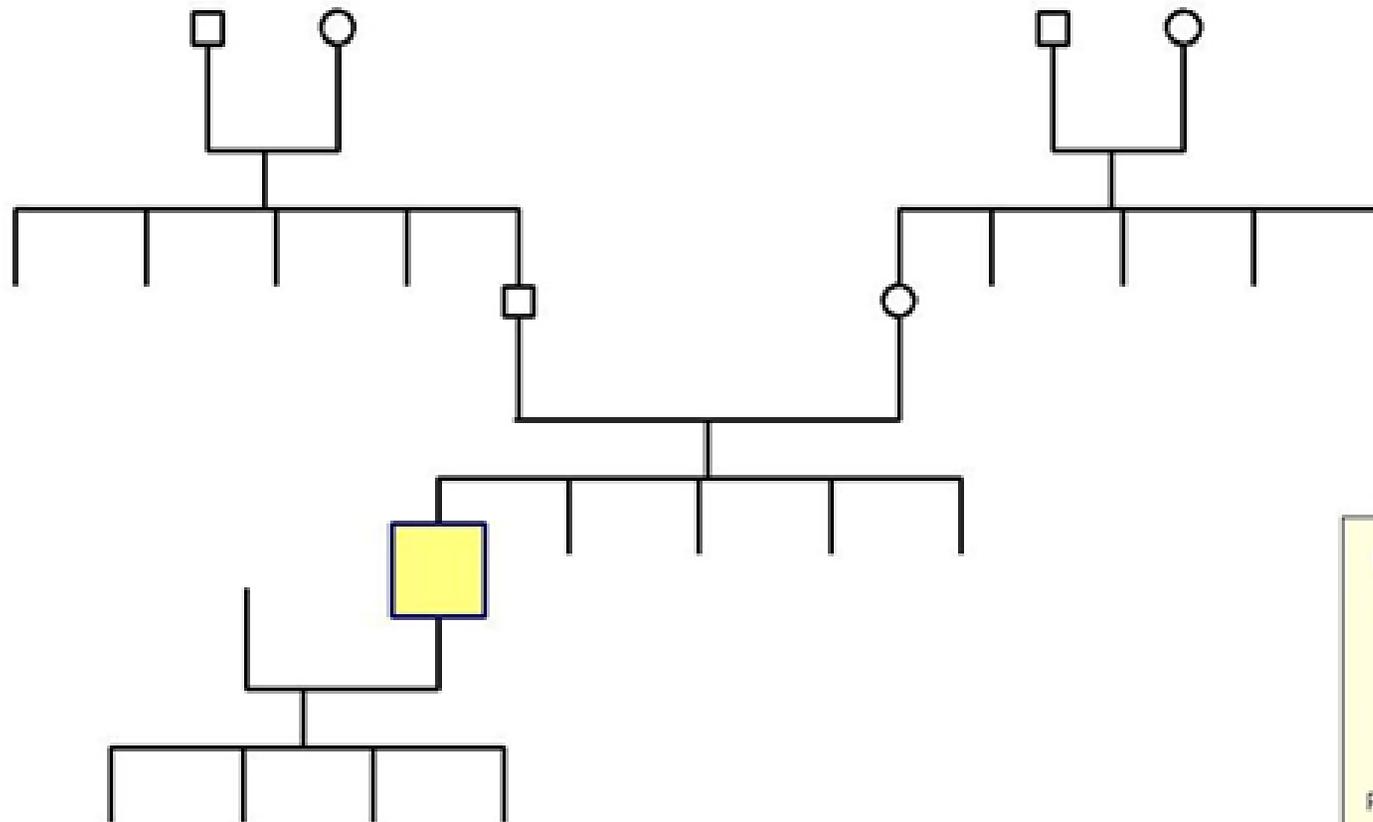




# Genograms – More than a Family Tree!

By using symbols, lines and notations, genograms allow us to quickly understand key elements within families on an intergenerational level.

# Genogram Template



Genogram Symbols	
□	○
Male	Female
△	⊠
Pregnancy	Death
<del>—</del>	Broken relationship

# Benefits of Genograms

- Expanding networks through identification of family and kin.
- Can be added to over time.
- Visually shows:
  - ✓ Support systems
  - ✓ Cultural heritage and traditions
  - ✓ Patterns that can inspire change in families

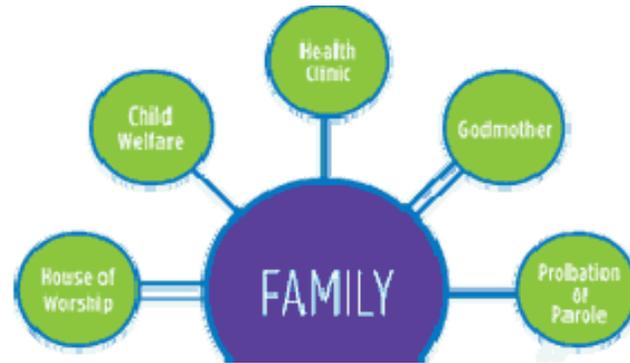
# Genogram Tools for You

- Genogram Key
- Standard Symbols for Genogram
- GenoPro genealogy software ([genopro.com](http://genopro.com))

# Genogram Exercise

- Get into pairs.
- One person interview the other.
- Interviewer create a genogram with the interviewee.
- Identify as many people as possible.
- Include fictive kin.





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# Eco-Maps

By visually representing the systems in a family's life and the nature of their relationships with those systems, eco-maps allow us to quickly understand how families interact with their environment.

# Eco-Map Template



# Benefits of Eco-Maps

- Identify more people to expand networks.
- Can be added to over time.
- Is a visual reminder of supports that families can put on their refrigerators.
- Can help inform the work with families.

# Eco-Map Exercise

- Get into your same pairs in your same roles.
- Interviewer create an eco-map with the interviewee.
- Identify as many people as possible.

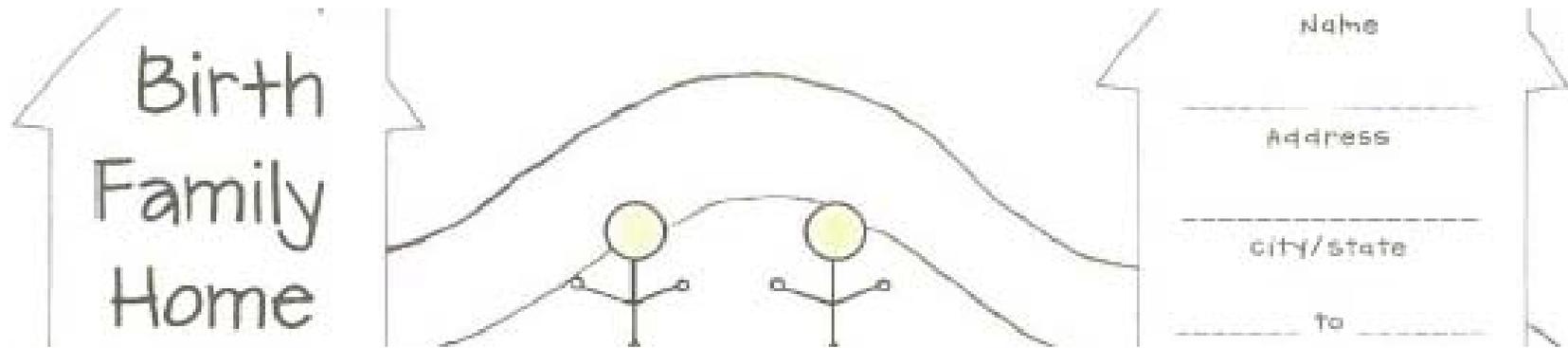




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# Case Mining and Genograms and Eco-Maps, Oh My!

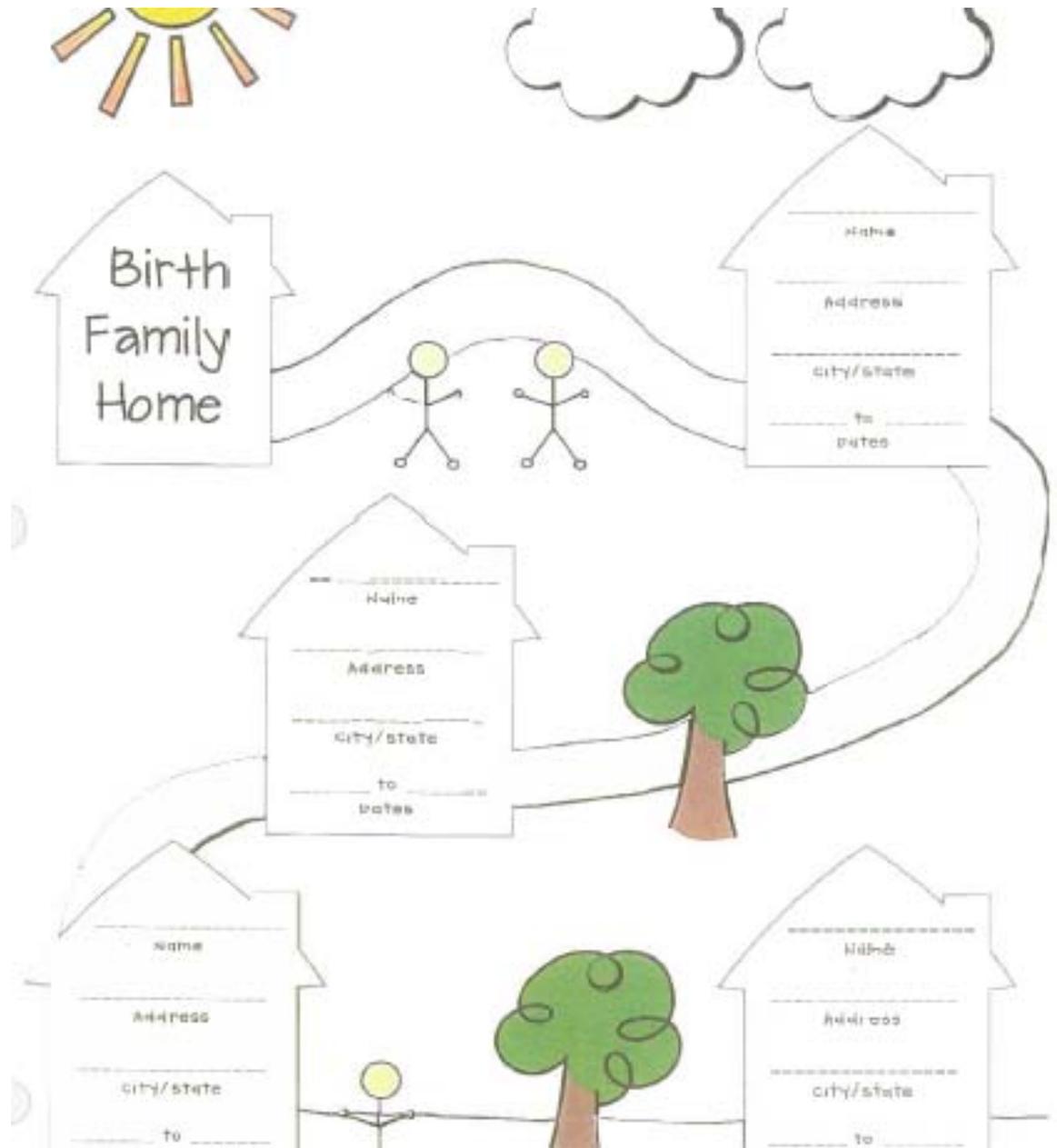
Between case mining, genograms, and eco-maps, it's common to identify at least **40** people per youth.



# Mobility and Placement Mapping

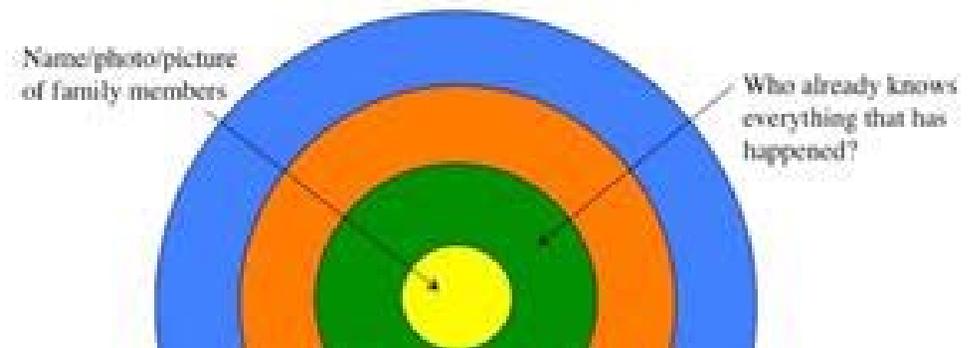
An interactive tool to use with youth, mobility and/or placement maps can be used with children of any age to help identify symbolic relatives and other significant connections in their lives.

# Mobility Map Template



# Mobility Mapping

- What is the first place you remember living?
- Who lived there with you?
- Where did you go to school?
- Who were your neighbors, friends, caregivers?
- Where did you spend holidays?



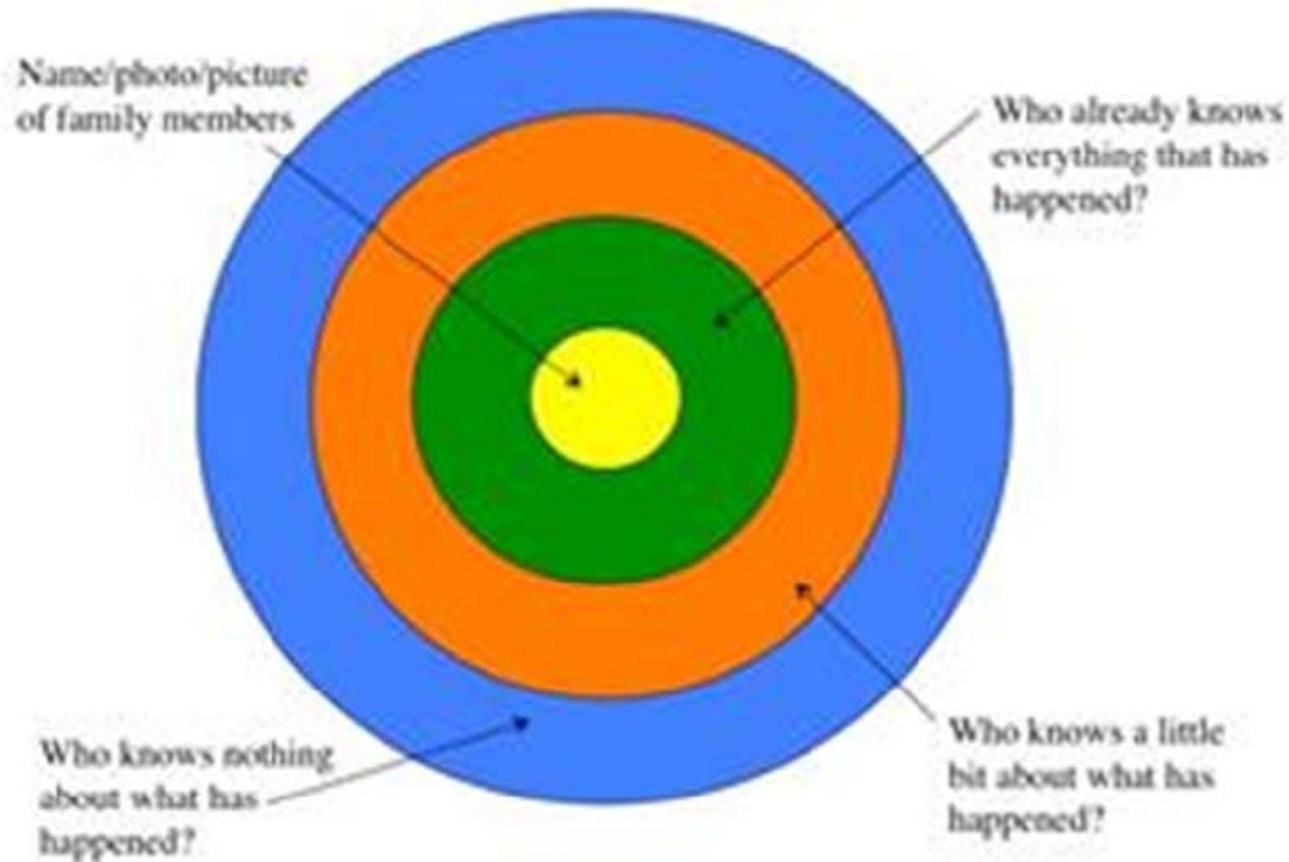
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# Circles of Support

As a visual tool to gather information about a family's network of supports, Circles of Support can help enlarge the network or identify supports who can participate in formal planning activities.

Developed by Susie Essex and Andrew Turnell

# Circle of Support Template



# Circles of Support

- Youth/family are in the **yellow** circle.
- People who know everything about what is going on are in the **green** circle.
- People who know a little bit about what is going on are in the **orange** circle.
- People who know nothing about what is going on are in the **blue** circle.

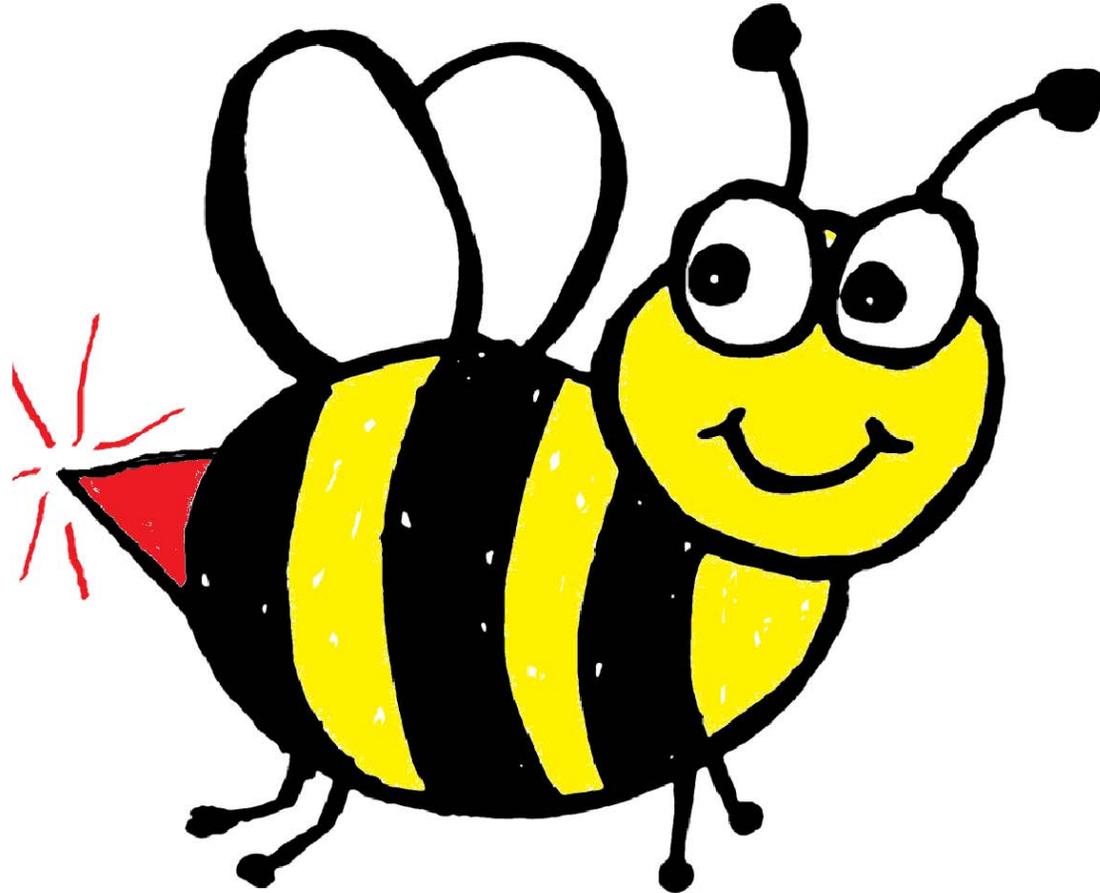
# The Inner Circle...More is Better

More people in the inner circle means more:

- Safety  
“Child abuse is a syndrome of secrecy.”
- Permanency
- Well-being

<http://crimepsychblog.com?p=1402>

# Safety Bee



# Adapted Circles Template



# Family Finding isn't limited to Family

- Judges
- Attorneys
- CASA
- Community Partners (teachers/school)
- Child Placing Agencies
- Previous Caseworkers
- Foster Parents
- Providers (therapist)

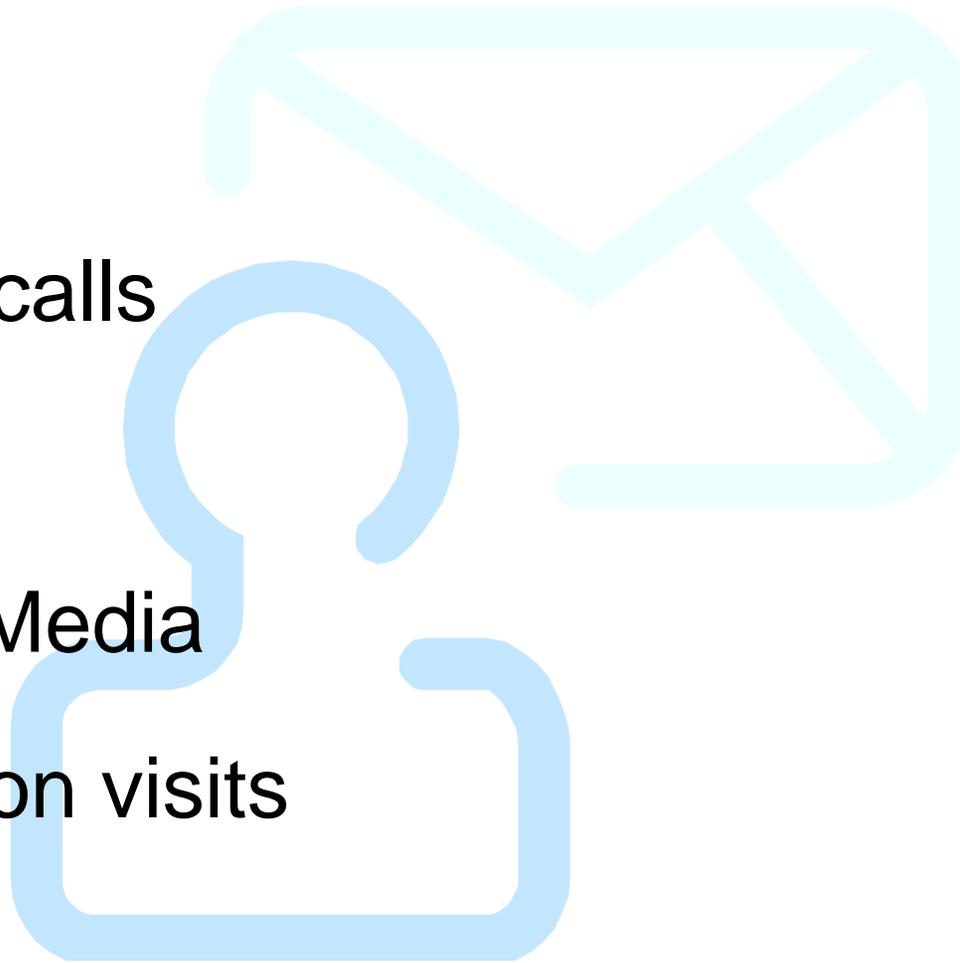
# SAFE STRONG SUPPORTIVE

How do we move forward?

## MAKING CONTACT

# How to Make Contact

- Letters
- Phone calls
- Email
- Social Media
- In-person visits



# What to Say

- Introduce yourself and your role.
- Explain looking for connections for child.
- Focus on how they can stay involved.
- Provide your contact information.

# Convey a Sense of Urgency

- When contacting potential connections for the youth, convey a sense of urgency.
- Always schedule a follow-up call while you have them on the telephone.

Catholic Community Services of Western Washington, et. al. [Family Search and Engagement: A Comprehensive Practice Guide](#). 2008.

# Convey Options for Connections

- Legal Permanency
  - Adoption
  - Permanent Guardianship
- Relational Permanency
  - Permanency Pact
- Use as a resource for information

# Engagement Tips

Child Welfare Information Gateway defines the key elements of family engagement as:

- **Listen.**
- Demonstrate **respect and empathy.**
- Develop an **understanding** of the family's past experiences, current situation, strengths and concerns.

(cont.)

# Engagement Tips

- Establish the **purpose of involvement**.
- Be **aware** of own biases and prejudices.
- Validate the **participatory role** of the family.
- Be **consistent, reliable, and honest**.

[www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)

# Balance Strengths...

- Talk about the youth's strengths, interests, talents or hobbies.
- If there are common interests and strengths, mentioning them can help the relative begin to feel connected to the youth.

(cont.)

# ...and Needs

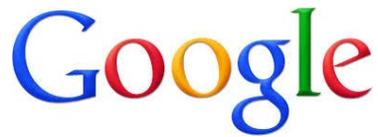
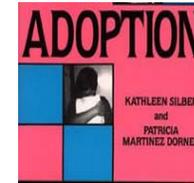
- As the conversation progresses, emphasize the youth's need to know where he comes from and who his “people” are.
- Let them know that the youth has struggled.
- Explain that youth who are lonely for family can struggle to develop a sense of “identity” and often have difficulties with behavior.

Catholic Community Services of Western Washington, et. al. [Family Search and Engagement: A Comprehensive Practice Guide](#). 2008.

# Staying In Touch

- Send a thank you note including contact information and an invitation to call back with more information in the future.
- Persist...even when progress is slow or difficult.
- **A child who feels alone deserves as many calls as it takes.**

Catholic Community Services of Western Washington, et. al. [Family Search and Engagement: A Comprehensive Practice Guide](#). 2008.



# Permanency Stories

## Emancipated Youth Connections Project

# Be Curious.



# Until the Last Child

