

# Making & Keeping Connections

## Protocol for Permanency Planning Social Workers

1. Follow state protocol for finding family during the first 30 days in custody (letter to relatives, etc.)
2. Develop family trees with the biological mother and biological father – bring this document to mediation giving the parents an opportunity to add to the family tree
3. Use the **Making and Keeping Connections** document with biological parents at the initial CFT to identify relatives and non-relatives who can support their child(ren). Use the ideas list to help parents identify ways individuals can support and stay connected. Bring the document to mediation giving the parents and opportunity to add to the document.
4. Continue to add to the **Making and Keeping Connections** document at meetings with biological parents
5. Use the **My Connections** document with children in care who are verbal. The social worker should write and draw as directed by the child for younger children who can not yet read or write. This document can also be used by the Guardian ad Litem Volunteer and should be updated on a regular basis. The social worker and the GAL should agree who should use the document with the child to prevent both from repeating the same activity and confusing the child.
6. Updates regarding family connections and the information gathering using these documents should be included in the Court Summary **Section VII; Paragraph B Research on Relatives for Placement/Fostering Connections** as well as **Section XII Update**

# Making & Keeping Connections

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relatives	Non-Relatives
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Name:	Name:
Relationship to Child:	Relationship to Child:
Address:	Address:
Phone:	Phone:
Ways this person can provide support and connection to this child:	Ways this person can provide support and connection to this child:
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Name:	Name:
Relationship to Child:	Relationship to Child:
Address:	Address:
Phone:	Phone:
Ways this person can provide support and connection to this child:	Ways this person can provide support and connection to this child:
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Name:	Name:
Relationship to Child:	Relationship to Child:
Address:	Address:
Phone:	Phone:
Ways this person can provide support and connection to this child:	Ways this person can provide support and connection to this child:

# Making & Keeping Connections

Children in Foster Care need to keep connections with family, friends, kin, etc. Even if you are unable to provide placement for the child, there are ways to stay connected.

Here are just a few great ideas.....

- Mail a card
- Write a letter
- Send family pictures
- Write or find and send a funny story
- Send a book
- Write or find and send a poem
- Make and send a craft
- Make a phone call
- Send a care package
- Send an email
- Invite to a family gathering
- Send a family recipe
- Shopping
- Trip to McDonalds
- Attend a school event
- Attend a sports or dance event

Remember that your contact should be positive and uplifting to the child. Talk to the Social Worker about ways you can stay connected.



## MY CONNECTIONS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Put your name and age in the center circle
2. Put names of relatives and their relationship to you in the rectangles
3. Put names of people with whom you have had a connection and list how you know them in the triangles
4. You can draw more triangles and rectangles if needed – list as many people as you can think
5. Draw lines to connect the people to you using heavy lines between you and the people to whom you feel most connected and soft or dotted lines between you and the people to whom you feel less connected
6. Draw circles or hearts around those people to whom you have the strongest connection

# MY CONNECTIONS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

 = Relative

 = Non-Relative (Family Friends, Neighbors, Teachers, Ministers, etc.)

