

What is Family Search and Engagement (FSE)?

Family Search and Engagement (FSE) is truly family-centered practice. FSE is a structured model used to build permanent, caring relationships for children by helping adults make realistic decisions on how to best be involved in a child's life. Family Search and Engagement is not just about searching for and engaging families with the hope of finding placement, it's also the art of establishing connections with trusted, caring adults, whether the child is in their own home, a relative home, or a foster home.

Application of FSE in Child Welfare Practice

The application of Family Search and Engagement in child welfare practice is required and outlined in both federal statute and state rule. Both the *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008* and the *Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014* modified the Social Security Act to include:

“within 30 days after the removal of a child from the custody of the parent or parents of the child, the State shall exercise due diligence to identify and provide notice to the following relatives: all adult grandparents, all parents of a sibling of the child, where such parent has legal custody of such sibling, and other adult relatives of the child (including any other adult relatives suggested by the parents), subject to exceptions due to family or domestic violence, that—

(A) specifies that the child has been or is being removed from the custody of the parent or parents of the child;

(B) explains the options the relative has under Federal, State, and local law to participate in the care and placement of the child, including any options that may be lost by failing to respond to the notice;

(C) describes the requirements under paragraph (10) of this subsection to become a foster family home and the additional services and supports that are available for children placed in such a home”

To access the complete Social Security Act, click the link below:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/compilation-of-social-security-act>

Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 5101:2-39-01 (effective 7/15/16); *Removal of a Child from the Child's Own Home* states the following:

(H) The PCSA or PCPA shall do all of the following within thirty days after removal of a child from his or her parent, guardian or custodian:

(1) Exercise due diligence in identifying the following relatives:

(a) All maternal and paternal grandparents.

(b) Other adult relatives of the child.

(c) Any adult relatives suggested by the child's parents.

(d) A parent who has legal custody of the child's sibling including blood, half-blood or adoption.

(2) Provide notice to all adult relatives identified in paragraphs (H)(1)(a) to (H)(1)(d) of this rule specifying all of the following and documenting the date and method of notification in the case record in accordance with rule 5101:2-33-23 of the Administrative Code:

(a) The child has been or is being removed from the parents' custody.

(b) The options the relative has to participate in the care and placement of the child including any options that may be lost by failing to respond to the notice.

(c) The requirements to become a licensed foster home and the additional services and supports available for children placed in a foster home.

(3) Document in the case record if any adult relative identified pursuant to paragraph (H)(1) of this rule has a history of family violence. The PCSA or PCPA is not required to notify adult relatives with a history of family violence pursuant to paragraph (H)(2) of this rule.

(4) Assess relative respondents pursuant to rule 5101:2-42-18 or 5101:2-52-04 of the Administrative Code to determine whether or not placement is approved. Upon placement of the child with an approved relative, the PCSA or PCPA is not required to assess any other relative respondent; but shall keep a recorded list of the identified adult relatives in the case record.

To access the complete rule, [click here](#)