

Practice Focus

SEARCHING

What is it?	<p>The process of “Searching” in Family Search and Engagement involves seeking out family members, kin, and other significant individuals in a child’s life in an effort to establish permanent connections for a child/youth. Searching is not only important in establishing potential placements for a child, but it is also a critical component in identifying lasting connections for a child regardless of the permanency goal. Searching should begin as soon as a case is opened. It is critical to document as much information as possible in the case record at each stage of the life of a case (intake/assessment, ongoing, PPLA, and permanent custody). Oftentimes, searching begins simply with talking with the child, biological parents, and known family members to identify the important adults in their lives. Information regarding important connections may also be found in case records, public assistance records, public records such as birth and death records, and both free and paid internet search engines.</p>
What laws and rules (OAC) apply?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008• Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014• OAC 5101:2-39-01 Removal of a Child from the Child’s Own Home
Searching may look like this if you are an <u>Intake Worker</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talking with the child (if developmentally appropriate) and parent/s about what relatives or non-blood kin may be potential placement options.• Conducting a search using on-line tools such as Accurint (requires a paid license), Zabasearch and Facebook (if agency approved).

<p>Searching may look like this if you are an <u>Ongoing Worker</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing Caseworkers must be open and willing to re-discover, re-engage, re-plan and re-explore previous or new connections for the child using similar tactics outlined for the Intake worker. • Talking with the child (if developmentally appropriate) and parent/s about what relatives or non-blood kin may be potential placement options. • Conducting a search using on-line tools such as Accurint (requires a paid license), Zabasearch and Facebook (if agency approved).
<p>Searching may look like this if you are an <u>Adoption or Independent Living Worker</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mine each child/youth's file and verify that a diligent search has been completed. • If a diligent search has not been completed, complete the search and document all search efforts and outcomes in the case record. • If a diligent search was completed, and more than one year has elapsed since the initial search, complete another search and document all outcomes in the case record. • Ensure that Maternal Grandparents and Paternal Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings on both sides as well as parents of any siblings who has legal custody of the child's sibling including blood, half-blood or adoption, have been explored for possible connections.
<p>Searching may look like this if you are a <u>Family Team Meeting Facilitator</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using meetings as a vehicle to identify and document information regarding relatives or non-blood kin for children who cannot live with their own parents /guardians. • One example would be to provide a relative checklist form that family members can complete while waiting for the meeting to start and then that information can be added to the Associated Persons Tab in SACWIS.
<p>Searching could look like this if you are a <u>Kinship Worker</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing relatives or non-blood kin for placement of children in agency care or for custody of children at risk of entering agency care. • Assess relatives or non-blood kin for respite /childcare for the current caregiver and to supervise family interaction between the child and parent. • Explore with the relatives or non-blood kin how they may be involved in supporting the child/youth, in the event that they are not a placement option or available for care/respite or

	supervision of family interaction. Support may include telephone calls, e-mails, letters, etc.		
Tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Family Search and Engagement Guidance Article (details how we should document our FSE search efforts in SACWIS) ✓ Sample Relative Checklists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lake County Resource: (Attach WORD Document A) ○ Summit County Resource: (Attach WORD Document B) ✓ Genogram Template (Attach WORD & PDF Documents C &D) ✓ Circle of Support ✓ Search Tracking Form ✓ Connectedness Map ✓ DR Practice Profiles ✓ www.familyecho.com (A Free family tree/genogram site) 		
Documentation Suggestions/Reminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing a genogram activity log in SACWIS is one way to list family and kin who are connected to a particular family. The log can be labeled with a Family Search and Engagement subcategory. • Family and kin who are identified in a genogram activity log should also be added to the associated persons tab in SACWIS for <u>all</u> cases. 		
Supervisor Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify that the genogram is updated prior to SAR. • Discuss actions taken and progress made regarding FSE efforts during supervision. • Regularly document FSE activities performed in supervision notes. 		
Training Suggestions via the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program 	E-Track #210-40-S	Introduction to Family Search and Engagement	3 Hour Classroom Learning-uses internet for activities
	E-Track # 210-39	Family Search and Engagement: The Path to Best Practice	6 Hour Classroom Learning

	E-Track # 210-48	Searching and Documenting Your Family Tree: A Link to the Past, a Bridge to the Future	6 Hour Classroom Learning
	E-Track #210-7	Finding Family: Locating and Engaging Kin and Other Caring Adults	6 Hour Classroom Learning
	E-Track #210-24	Ethical Dilemmas in Family Search and Engagement	3.25 Hour Classroom learning that meets Ethics requirement for those who are licensed