



Welcome to the Dad Allies Learning Series

We
know
that:

Child and family well-being improve when fathers are positively engaged in their children’s lives.

Fathers play a unique and important role in children’s development.

Fathers should have support and resources to become the fathers they aspire to be.



Thomas V.
Giddens Jr.
Foundation

Washington
Fatherhood
Council



Engaging Fathers

Dad Allies Child Welfare Session 1



Relative Placement

The connection to family and community is very important to a child because:



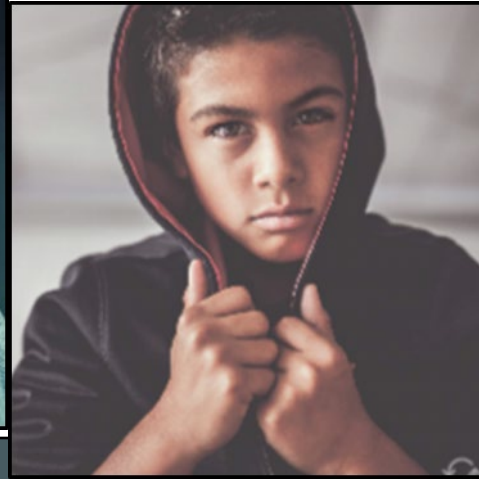
Children can live with people they may already know and trust.



Children maintain their personal and cultural identity.



Families identify their own resources and strengths.



Relatives are integral members of the child & family's support team.



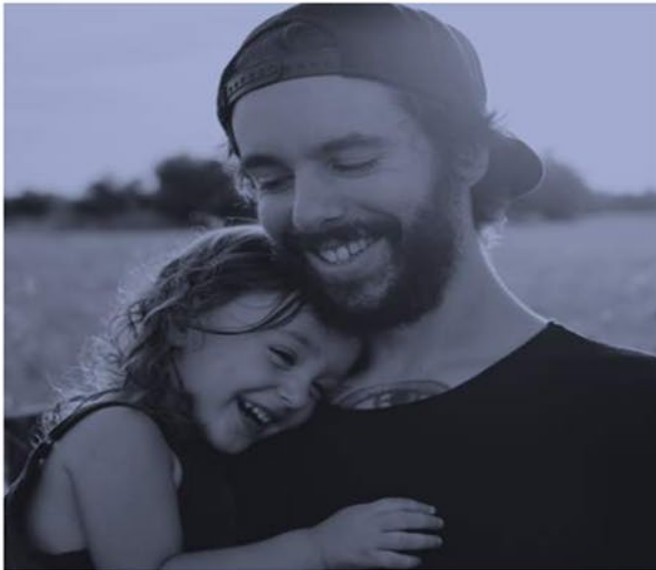
Relatives can fill in family history gaps (health, behavioral, ed.) when a parent may be unavailable to do so.

Relative Placement

Who's considered a relative in Washington State?

[RCW 74.15.020](#) identifies the people who DCYF consider to be relatives.

Persons related to a child include, but are not limited to...



Parents, siblings (including adoptive and step-family members), aunts, uncles etc.



Grandparents, great aunts and uncles.



Great grandparents and Great-great grandparents.

Relative Placement

Relative Search is required for all children in Washington State placed in out-of-home care.

Q. When does the Relative Search process start?

A. Within 30 Days after a child is placed out of home.

- By law, paternity must be established before paternal relatives can be included in a Relative Search.
- The Division of Child Support will no longer be establishing paternity testing for children who are placed in out of home care.
- Fathers are responsible to work with the Social Worker to establish paternity.
- Even if a child is placed with a maternal relative, father's should be inquiring if or when a search was completed on their family.

Shared Planning Meetings

Father's involvement in all DCYF shared planning meetings is very important. You will help develop your family case plan to eliminate safety threats, create permanency goals for your child and make a plan to visit with your child. There are multiple types of meetings in which you will be involved. The most frequent types of meetings include Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) and Permanency Planning. These meetings are a great time to present your view, what you believe needs to change and what support you need to make these changes happen.



Family Team Decision Making Meeting

- Purpose
 - Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) meetings follow the Shared Planning Meeting model of engaging the family and others who are involved with the family to participate in critical decisions regarding the removal of children from their home, placement stabilization and prevention, and reunification or placement into a permanent home.



Permanency Planning Meetings

- Purpose

- To engage parents, children and youth, caregivers, relatives, fictive kin, natural supports, and others, as appropriate, in the development of a plan that prioritizes child safety and meets the support and service needs of the parents, children and youth, and caregivers. These meetings provide an opportunity for information to be shared, case plans to be developed and decisions made that will support the safety, permanency, and well-being of children.



Permanency From Day One

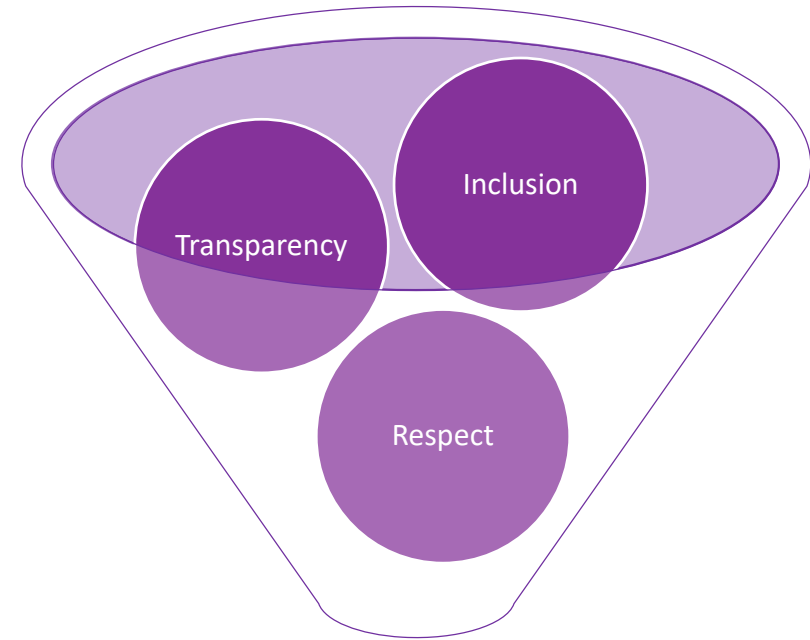
Enhances Permanency Planning Meetings through

Key Components:

- Independent Assigned Facilitator
- Engagement through pre-meets & invitations
- Ongoing collaboration during meetings every 90 days
- Neutral Shared Planning Meeting Setting through virtual platform (Zoom)



Mediation of Disagreements
&
Shared Decision Making



Teaming Approach

Dependency Court Process Timeline – Please make sure you talk with your lawyer about your court hearings.

CPS REFERRAL	CHILD IS PLACED INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY	SHELTER CARE HEARING <i>(your child can be returned home after any of the listed court hearings)</i>	CONTINUED SHELTER CARE HEARING <i>(in some courts)</i>	FACT FINDING HEARING <i>(within 75 days of filing a Dependency Petition)</i>	DISPOSITION HEARING <i>(within 90 days of filing a Dependency Petition)</i>	FIRST DEPENDENCY REVIEW HEARING	PERMANENCY PLANNING HEARING	DEPENDENCY REVIEW HEARING <i>(Ongoing every 6 months)</i>
Process begins here	72 Hour Maximum		30 days	90 Days		6 Months	12 Months	18 Months
<p>CPS receives a referral regarding abuse or neglect of a child. The referral is evaluated and either screened in for investigation, Family Assessment Response or screened out. If it is believed necessary to protect the child from imminent harm, your child may be removed from your home by the court or law enforcement</p>	<p>Child is removed from your care and placed into out-of-home care either with a relative or foster home. A Shelter Care Hearing will be held within 72 hours of your child being removed from your home.</p>	<p>At this hearing, you can ask that the court appoint you an attorney. A judge decides whether your child needs to remain in out-of-home care or can be safely returned to you. You can ask that your child stay with relatives rather than in a foster home. If your child will remain in care your caseworker will set up a regular visitation plan.</p>	<p>The court again decides if your child will stay in out-of-home care or will be returned to you. The court reviews your Family Time visitation plan and where your child is living.</p>	<p>If you continue to object to the dependency, the court will take testimony from you and others about the identified child safety threats in the dependency petition. The court will either rule your child a dependent of the State or order that your child be returned to your care and dismiss the dependency or order your child safe enough to go home with an in-home dependency with court oversight.</p>	<p>If your child is declared a dependent, the court will order that you participate in services to reduce the safety threats in your home. The court will also address any placement or visitation issues at this hearing.</p>	<p>The court reviews your progress with services and considers if there are additional services that can strengthen your ability to provide a safe home for your child. The court might determine that it is now safe for your child to return home with an in-home dependency with court oversight.</p>	<p>The court decides what your child's permanent plan should be and also what your child's concurrent plan should be if you are unable to safely parent your child.</p>	<p>The court reviews your participation in services and if you have not made sufficient progress by this point, the court will order (in some cases) that the State file a petition to terminate your parental rights.</p> <p>If the termination petition is filed, there will be a trial where your attorney and the State's attorney will present evidence on your case. A judge will decide whether or not to terminate your parental rights.</p>

Dependency Timeline

https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/CWP_0044.pdf

DCYF Engaging Fathers Campaign

- Regional Fatherhood leads
- Relaunch Engaging Fathers Website
- Monthly newsletter
- Father recognition with award ceremony



DCYF Practice Improvement

- Families First Prevention Act
- Office of Juvenile Justice
- Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)
 - Program Improvement (PIP)
 - Annual Progress and Services Review (APSR)
- WA Caregiver Application Portal (WA CAP)
- Citizen Review Panel
- D.S. Lawsuit Settlement

[DCYF Practice Improvement](#)



Acknowledgment

DCYF would like to acknowledge and thank the WA Fatherhood Council - Washington Fathers Photo Bank for the use of some of the photographs included in this presentation. The photo bank is a collection of photos donated by Washington fathers to meet the demand for royalty free photographs depicting fathers and their children.