



# Diligent Efforts to Search for and Engage Relatives

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## Overview

By the end of this session, participants will:

- Learn the advantages of relative placements and connections for children and families involved in juvenile dependency proceedings.
- Understand Federal law, Oregon Administrative Rules, and Department policy related to searching for and working with relatives; and
- Be able to identify relatives in accordance with Oregon's definition.
- Participants will know how relative search and placement applies to CRB's Findings.





Children benefit from having a connection to extended family.

Helping a child stay connected to family reduces trauma and promotes a child's stability, sense of identity and self-esteem which flow from knowing their family history and culture.

## *Working With Relatives Video*

MOVIE  
HERE

*Portland State University  
Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services  
Oregon Children's Justice Act Task Force*

## *Diligent Efforts*



For Finding 2, the board ensures that DHS made diligent efforts to place the child with a relative or person who has a caregiver relationship, ensures the relative search began the same day the child was placed into care, and ensures the relative search is ongoing.

Finding 2 is made at every review.

## *Finding 2 Questions*



Is the child placed with a relative or person with a caregiver relationship? If not, what efforts were made?

Does the child have siblings who are in need of placement or continuation in care? If so, what efforts have been made to place the siblings together?

## Finding 2 Questions



What efforts has DHS made to identify and locate relatives, including those living outside the United States?

What efforts has DHS made to identify cultural and tribal leaders to assist in the search for relatives, including persons with a caregiver relationship?



### Finding 2.

**Yes, if child is placed with a relative or if DHS made diligent efforts to place the child with a relative or a person with a caregiver relationship.**

**No, if DHS made no efforts or if the efforts were not diligent.**

## Permanency



In addition to Finding 2, the board confirms a relative search is ongoing when reviewing Finding 5 to help them determine if DHS made reasonable efforts to place the child in a timely manner and to complete the steps necessary to finalize permanency.

This is important, for example, if a concurrent plan of adoption has been implemented and there is not an identified adoptive resource.

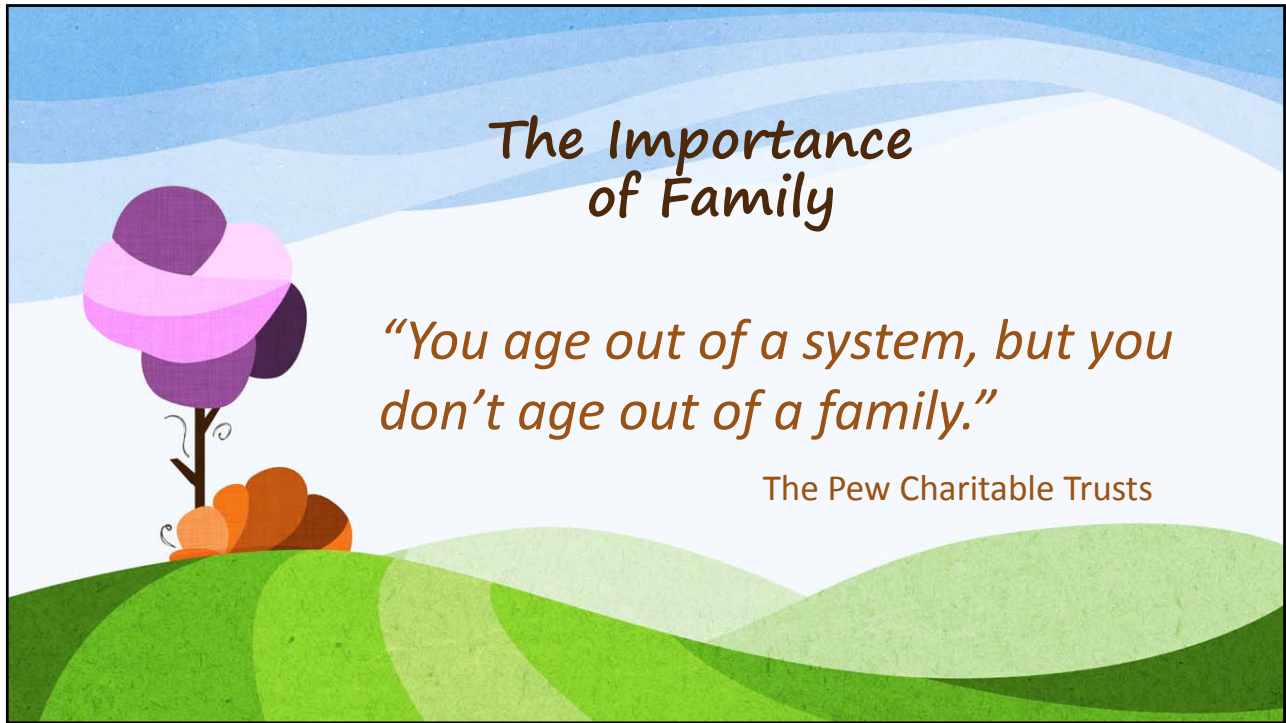


### Finding 5.

**Yes, if DHS made reasonable efforts in accordance with the case plan (including a relative search) to place the child in a timely manner, and to complete the steps necessary to finalize permanency.**

**No, if DHS made no efforts or if the efforts were not diligent.**





## The Importance of Family

*“You age out of a system, but you don’t age out of a family.”*

The Pew Charitable Trusts



## References

**Who Am I? Why Family Really Matters, Every Day Counts Conference Materials, 2010**  
<http://courts.oregon.gov/OJD/OSCA/cpsd/citizenreview/EveryDay2010/pages/familymatters.aspx>

**Rights of Relatives, DHS Child Welfare Procedure Manual**  
[http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual\\_1/i-a45.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_1/i-a45.pdf)

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