Child Welfare

Fatherhood Engagement

PIP 3 Engagement

Efforts to make

Talk to the family and kin. Does the child know anything about their dad? Maybe the Mother's sister has been talking to the Father's cousin's wife on Facebook. Does the Mother know the Father's name but doesn't want him involved? *Talk it through, Fathers aren't optional.*

Where or who is the Father?

Caseworkers can access these databases to find last known phone numbers, addresses or other potential contact info:

- **Trails**
- **Colorado Courts**: https://www.jbits.courts.state.co.us/pas/pubaccess/index.cfm
- **Vinelink**: https://www.vinelink.com/#state-selection
- **State Sex Offender Search**: https://apps.colorado.gov/apps/dps/sor/
- **National Sex Offender Search**: https://www.nsopw.gov
- **Denver Jail**: https://denvergov.org/inmatesearch
- **Department of Corrections**: https://www.doc.state.co.us/oss/

Reach out to others who have access to other databases:

- **Accurint**: oneline@denvergov.org
- **CBMS**: AdmissionsDesk@denvergov.org
- **COVIS**: CWFamilySearchandEngagement@denvergov.org
- **Child Support**: 720-944-2960

How to document

Utilize the Contact of Engagement & Effort to Locate Parent template every month to document attempts to locate or identify the Father. Every way in which you are searching or asking about the Father needs to be documented as efforts made.

What goes into Trails? Cut and paste the template into Trails as 'attempted' until you've been successful in engaging the parent.

What else can you try and document as efforts?

- Everything you've already tried before--keep it up! People change their minds, recall information, or learn something new to share.
- Help develop a Circle of Support and don't just focus on placement.
- Revisit data bases on the left, sometimes they get new info that might be helpful.
- Ask the kinship support worker to reach out too--they can try a new angle.
- Hold an FTM or PRT focused on developing better understanding of familial connections.

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Contact the Father and have an open and transparent conversation about why the Department is involved and the importance of their participation in the assessment or case. Discuss how they impact the child's life and how they can contribute to safety for the child.

Found 'em!

Practice with your supervisor or peers so you can be ready for these potential conversations:

- the Father may not know they were the Father of the child
- they don't want to be an involved parent
- resistance to getting involved if they weren't part of the incident
- they want to take a back seat until the Mother resolves the situation
- practice shifting language to parenting and how to support long-term care of their child

Discuss the assessment and case process with court cases and non-court cases. Discuss what our partnership with the family entails.

Request information on family and supports, **and discuss why these are so important.** Utilize the safety and support circle tool to discuss these.

How to document

Utilize the PfS Framework as a tool to gather information. Discuss the Risk and Goal statements so the Father understands what the Department is worried about so he can help contribute to safety for the child for assessment or case closure.

What goes into Trails?

Enter the Father as a client in Trails.

- General Info tab--enter Father's general information
- Relations tab--label the familial relationship to the child(ren) and others on the case
- Demo tab--enter address, phone number, email address, and any other info the Father can provide

Update the Family Social History with the Father's information.

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Efforts to make

Ensure the Father is at the table for Family Team Meetings and any other meetings about their child. **Break down barriers that make this difficult--address transportation, technology, confusing procedures for jails, etc.**

Keep 'em engaged

Meet monthly face-to-face with Fathers to review and discuss:

- Case and treatment plan progress
- Permanency
- Continued use of the support circle to gather new people or help them pull people in
- Have solution focused discussions
- Resources and support such as the Fatherhood Program and DPALS

How to document

Document your monthly contact using the Quality of Contact Template. The required monthly face-to-face contact should document the Father's ability to provide safety for the child and the progress toward treatment plan goals.

Develop the Father's treatment plan with him. It must be a behaviorally based treatment plan with relevant objectives directly addressing the Risk Statement to keep them from becoming overwhelmed. Always keep the focus on the safety and well-being of the child.

Document all the ways you engage the Father in his case:

- Invite him to his children's medical appointments, school meetings and evaluations
- Keep them updated on the daily happenings of their child's life
- Encourage placement providers to partner with Fathers for well-being and support
- Evaluate how you approach Fathers and ensure you're talking to them about all the aspects of their children's life.