

FAMILY-CENTERED, NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED (FCNB) SERVICES THE FOSTER PARENT, BIRTH PARENT AND SOCIAL WORKER PARTNERSHIP

FRAMEWORK FOR RELATING

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Policy Statement

A family-centered, neighborhood-based services approach to child welfare requires pro-active, careful planning, thoughtfulness and consideration by all involved parties. To form successful partnerships between the birth family, foster family and social worker the roles, responsibilities and protocols for the relationship must be clearly defined and agreed upon by the involved parties. The following framework has been established for this critical partnership. Its ultimate purpose is to assure that children and families can be reunited and maintain independence from the child welfare system.

All healthy relationships have boundaries that guide the interaction and intimacy of the involved parties. Boundaries must be established between the birth family, foster family and social worker to assure the safety and well being of the child. This document attempts to guide the establishment of healthy boundaries and to assist with the healthy development of the social worker, birth family and foster family relationship.

This document is a “jumping off point” for initiating the dialogue, planning first steps and for reviewing, on a regular basis where the partners are and where they need to go for reunification and family stability to be realized. This Framework is not “written in stone” nor is meant to be. Each county, agency and the individuals involved are different and unique. Circumstances and situations may call for this Framework to be revised, refined and rewritten to meet the unique needs and circumstances of each partnership.