
Presenters

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We will be using PollEverywhere today for poll questions

PollEv.com/kinnectohio480

Text KINNECTOHIO480 to 22333 once to join
(fah-th er) noun

1. a man in relation to his child or children
In one word, what comes to mind when you think of your father?
When you hear the word "father" in the realm of child welfare, what does it make you think of?
In child welfare, fathers are given an equal voice at the table when it comes to the best interest of their child(ren)?

Do you agree or disagree?
Where does our information about fathers typically come from?

Mother

Court Records

SACWIS
Fathers Impact on Children
Outcomes with an involved, loving Father

• More likely to:
  • Do well in school
  • Have healthy self-esteem
  • Exhibit empathy and pro-social behavior

• Less likely to:
  • Engage in drug use
  • Have truancy issues
  • Be involved in delinquent activity

Than children who have uninvolved fathers (Horn & Sylvester, 2002, p.15)
Statistics can be telling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children/Youth from Fatherless Homes</th>
<th>Children/Youth from Homes with Fathers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63 percent of youth suicides</td>
<td>37 percent of youth suicides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 percent of homeless and runaway youth</td>
<td>10 percent of homeless and runaway youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 percent of youth who exhibit behavioral disorders</td>
<td>15 percent of youth who exhibit behavioral disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71 percent of all high school dropouts</td>
<td>29 percent of all high school dropouts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 percent of all youth in chemical abuse centers</td>
<td>25 percent of all youth in chemical abuse centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 percent of youth in state-operated institutions</td>
<td>30 percent of youth in state-operated institutions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Urban Leadership Institute’s ‘Dare to be King’ curriculum (2006)
How Are You Engaging Fathers?
In your current work, on average, how many paternal relatives are contacted per case?

0-3
4-7
8 or more
Legal Father/Paternity Established
Social Father
Alleged Fathers
What does “Alleged” Father Mean?

- Paternity has not been established
- Mother names man as a possible father
- Could be many names
- We explore each alleged father and their families equally
How is Paternity Established in Ohio? 2 Ways

Presumption of Paternity vs. Final and Enforceable Establishment of Paternity in Ohio

• **Presumption of Paternity**
  
  • Parents are married, and child was born during the marriage or within 300 days of marriage dissolving
  
  • Parents attempted to marry, but marriage is or could be declared invalid
  
  • Father signed Acknowledgement of Paternity (AOP), but 60 days has not yet passed
    
    • Rescission can occur within these 60 days
    
    • Presumed father can request dna test
How is Paternity Established in Ohio? 2 Ways

Presumption of Paternity vs. Final and Enforceable Establishment of Paternity in Ohio

• **Final and Enforceable Determination of Paternity**
  • Signed Acknowledgement of Paternity (by both parents; must be notarized
    • After 60 days have passed, and no rescission
  • By Judgement Entry or Court Order (Default Judgement)
    • This includes divorce or dissolution
  • By Administrative Order (done by Child Support after dna test)
Barriers to Engaging Fathers?
Potential Barriers to a Father’s Involvement

The way we engage with fathers and connect them with services can directly impact the way fathers contribute to their child’s development (Casey Family Programs)

- Child welfare professional and systemic bias (e.g., case names reflect mother)
- Overburdened workers who may be hesitant to take the time to locate and involve non-custodial fathers
- Mothers’ gate-keeping
- Characteristics of non-custodial fathers that make them less accessible (i.e., incarceration, homelessness, impairment by substance abuse, military enlistment, etc.)
- Lack of father-specific services and supports
- Child welfare professionals’ reluctance to involve male perpetrators in planning and service delivery
- Dynamics around domestic violence.
When the Going Gets Tough: Lean In

Incarcerated Fathers
When the Going Gets Tough: Lean In

Deceased Fathers
When the Going Gets Tough: Lean In

Deported Fathers
30 Days to Family Ohio
How familiar are you with the 30 Days to Family® Program?

This program is currently in my county. I know all about it!

I've heard of it, but I'm not sure exactly what it is or what they do.

I've never heard of it before. Give me the deets! Tell me more!
30 Days to Family® Ohio
30 Days Philosophies

- Every family is unique.
- Only the family members are experts on the family.
- Every family has its own culture, personalities, family dynamics, and history.
- Children deserve to be with their family.
- Children have a right to maintain kinship and cultural connections.
- Relatives have the right to know family members exist.
- Active family participation is essential for good outcomes.
- All families are entitled to respect from the child welfare system.
- Everyone has something to contribute.
- Every child has family members that are able and willing to care for them.
Practices different from “business as usual”

Relentless search: What would my family do for me?

Vigorous search & engagement of fathers and paternal family members

Strengths-based approach to engage family in problem solving

Illustrate a commitment of family to the family
What we do

• Notify family that a relative has come into care
• Identify relative and/or kinship placement options
• Place with family
• Secure backup placement options
• Solidify plan for placement stability
• Ensure supports for family are in place

All Within 30 Days!
Program Benchmarks

- Identify at least 80 relatives/kin per case
- Identify *an average* of 150 relatives over the history of cases served
- Identify 4th generation in all areas
- Demonstrate equal exploration efforts on maternal and paternal sides of family tree
Maternal Family on Genogram
Look at what we would miss from Dad’s side
Engaging Fathers: Legal, Social, Alleged
Social Services

- Child Abuse & Neglect Screenings and Narratives
- Search Child Protective Services SACWIS case record system
- Search Income Maintenance (food stamps, TANF, medical benefits, etc.) for family members and current addresses
- Child Support Databases include name and address for each parent, as well as their employment. Will also include other children of the parent
LexisNexis®: Accurint

- Purchased license
- Confidential
- Powerful investigative tool: can efficiently locate people, accurately verify identity, perform in-depth searches, and help easily visualize complex relationships.
Publicly Available Information

- Search for obituaries online
- Search Department of Revenue to determine property ownership and tax records
- Call leasing office or landlord for tenant information
- Contact funeral homes
- Google everything (name, location, profession, school, email address, handle, etc.)
- Utilize public search databases
- Registries: Wedding, baby, farmland, and professional
- Request documents from Vital Records Department (varies by jurisdiction)
Law Enforcement Records

- Sex Offender Registries
- Online court records and databases
- Vinelink.com
- BOP.gov
- County and state specific court records (vary by jurisdiction)
- mugshots.com and arrests.org

**Remember, inmates are not appropriate for placement, but can be a wealth of information!**
Social Media

- Facebook
- Pinterest
- LinkedIn
- Twitter
- Snapchat
- Instagram
- Google+
- Myspace
Facebook Tips

Info or About Sections
- Employment, school, location
- Contact information
- Pages or companies they “like” for location clues
- Relatives list

Friends List
- Relatives with the same last name, search for specific relatives, or nicknames
Facebook Tips, conti.

Photos

– Review for tagged individuals
– Labels of albums for family info (Family Reunion, Dad’s birthday, etc.)
– Review for cars, house numbers, background clues and landmarks for location

Status Updates

– Tagged friends
– Comments by those expressing concern or wanting to help
– “Happy Birthday” messages
– Check-ins for location
If you are honest, how well does your agency engage fathers, alleged fathers, and their families

We are knocking it out of the park! We are phenomenal at engaging paternal relatives.

We are pretty darn good, but some departments are better at this than others.

We're not great, but we're not terrible.

Dismal. We really have room to grow in this area.
Agents of Change