

**OFFICE OF THE DEFENDER GENERAL
2009 GREEN MOUNTAIN JUVENILE AND
CRIMINAL DEFENSE INSTITUTE**

JUNE 4, 2009

The Inn at Essex
70 Essex Way
Essex Jct., VT 05452

**THE NEW FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING
Kinship Chart**

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**Family Finding
Tools**

Identifying Connections for Youth

This form can be used by any member of the dependency court system. It is used as a reminder of all of the people who could be an important connection for youth.

	Located	Name of Person	Contacted	Interviewed	Placement	If no placement provide reason	Does child wish to maintain contact?
PARENTAGE							
Mother							
Presumed Father							
Alleged Father(s)							
Stepparent							
Guardian							
Other							
MATERNAL RELATIVES							
Grandmother							
Grandfather							
Aunt(s)							
Uncle(s)							
Siblings							
Extended Family Member							
PATERNAL RELATIVES							
Grandmother							
Grandfather							
Aunt(s)							
Uncle(s)							
Siblings							
Extended Family Member							
RELATIONSHIPS							
Godparent							
Neighbor							
Neighbor							
Prior Foster Parent							
Teacher							
Teacher							
Coach							
Friend's Parents							
Other							

Attorneys

With each new day and each new case, child welfare attorneys have an opportunity to directly impact the lives of children and their families. Lawyers must always be conscious of the powerful impact their words and actions have on those around them. Most importantly, they must

always be aware of the adage that "effective advocacy for your client begins the moment you are handed the case, and never stops."³⁷ It is against this backdrop that lawyers must view their role in FSE. FSE is a critical element of effective attorney advocacy, regardless of whom a lawyer represents. Each time an

attorney engages with someone related to a case provides an opportunity to engage in FSE.

Parent attorney tips:

Be upfront about the roles of family if parental rights are severed. Parent attorneys often tell their clients within moments of meeting