

Practice Alert



Diligent Search

This Practice Alert is to remind staff of the policy for completing diligent searches for parents and family members of children in Alternative Care. This work begins as soon as a child comes into custody as state law and policy require grandparents to be notified of custody and given preference for placement within 3 hours.

When working with parents it is important to engage early and often to gain information about other relatives and the non-custodial parent. These conversations are ongoing during the life of the Alternative Care case and should be documented in FACES.

Certain staff across the state have access to the TLOxp website, a site dedicated to compiling and reporting information. This resource can be used to search for parents and family members. Staff who need assistance locating parents or relatives after exhausting all other search options should contact one of the individuals listed below.

<u>North</u> Sallie West Marla Pritzel Yvette Collins Richard Bird Emily Elkins Heather Allen	<u>Southwest</u> Mary Tilton Faucett Katie Sherbo	<u>Jackson</u> Alison Smith Jessica Latta	<u>Southeast</u> Jason Perkins Brenda Beistel	<u>Central Office</u> Beth McQuaide Amy Martin Kara Wilcox-Bauer Jason Kearbey Sally Gaines	<u>St. Louis</u> Phoelica McKenzie
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The Child Welfare Manual provides a detailed list of search efforts that should be made. This section can be found [here](#).

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