

## WHY DOES THE COURT RECOMMEND FAMILY FINDING & FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING?

- The Judge will have to make many decisions and specific orders during the court proceedings.
- The Judge will need to order specific services to help meet you and your children's needs.
- The Judge's primary concern is the safety of your child. Involving others who care about you and your child may increase safety for your child.
- The Judge would like to have your very best thinking about your child and your family's needs.
- If your child has to be temporarily placed, the Judge would like to reduce any potential trauma to your child by placing them with safe people that they already know. FF and FGDM can help identify these people.
- FF and FGDM provide an opportunity to develop a plan that can be presented in court and, if all concerns are addressed, ordered by the court.



## FAMILY FINDING & FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING

*Locating and rebuilding meaningful, lifelong connections so families can take charge of their own lives.*



*At our best level of  
existence  
we are parts of a family,  
and at our highest level  
of achievement,  
we work to keep the  
family alive.*

*---Maya Angelou*

For more information, go to:  
[www.ocfcpacourts.us](http://www.ocfcpacourts.us)





## FAMILY FINDING AND FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING

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### WHAT IS FAMILY FINDING (FF)?

- A process designed to locate and involve relatives and other people who love and care about you.

### WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE IN FAMILY FINDING?

- To locate and identify family members and acquaintances that can support you.
- To involve those people in helping you.
- To make lifelong, supportive connections.

### WHAT IS FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING (FGDM)?

- A meeting or set of meetings for you to come together with your family, friends, and others who care about you to create a plan for your family.
- An opportunity to exercise your right to make decisions.

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“The more eyes, hands, and hearts involved with a family, the safer the child.”

- Larry Graber

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE FGDM CONFERENCE?

- A discussion of you and your family's strengths.
- A discussion of you, your family's, and the agency's concerns.
- A meal shared by everyone at the conference.
- Private time for your family to develop a plan to care for your children and address concerns.
- Presentation of your plan to the agency worker for review and acceptance.