

## Family Finding Enhancements 2006-2017\*

In 2006, the Pennsylvania State Roundtable recognized Kevin A. Campbell's Family Finding Model as a core component to the Permanency Practice Initiative (PPI). Family Finding is the Pennsylvania State Roundtable's foundational practice to find and meaningfully involve healthy adults in the lives of Pennsylvania's foster children forming lifelong connections.

The core beliefs of the Family Finding Model remain the same today: *(1) every child has a family, and they can be found if we try; (2) loneliness can be devastating, even dangerous and is experienced by most children in out-of-home care; (3) a meaningful connection to family helps a child develop a sense of belonging, and; (4) the single factor most closely associated with positive outcomes for children is meaningful, lifelong connections to family.*

As Kevin Campbell's Family Finding practice has evolved, combined with extensive research, PPI county experiences and the passage of Pennsylvania's own family finding legislation, Act 14 of 2019 (formerly Act 55 of 2013), both philosophical and practice enhancements continue to be made. This document outlines both model and practice enhancements comparing 2006 to 2017.

2006	2017
<b>Primary Focus:</b> Safety → Permanency → Well-being	<b>Primary Focus:</b> Safety → Well-being → Permanency
<b>Goal:</b> legal permanency	<b>Goal:</b> relational permanency and legal permanency
Legal permanency leads to well-being	A supportive network leads to safety, well-being, relational permanency and legal permanency
Lifelong connections focus on the child primarily	Supportive network for the child and/or parents
Identifying a specific number (40+) of relatives and kin	Developing and sustaining an active support network that wants to be involved in a meaningful way as early as possible
The caseworker was the "doer of all things"	The caseworker facilitates the creation of the child/family network. The network and the caseworker support the family
The caseworker is responsible for successful Family Finding	Everyone (including: caseworker; supervisor; providers; attorneys; judge; child; family etc.) are responsible for successful family finding
Practice based in experience	Practice grounded in experience <i>and</i> research
Best practice/Good idea	Fundamental child welfare practice and legally required in Pennsylvania
Six sequential Family Finding steps	Seven fluid ongoing engagement steps targeted to develop a supportive, active network



# Family Finding Enhancements to the Model 2006-2017



\* Based on Kevin Campbell's Model, PA Law, and 2017 PPI Workgroup State Roundtable Report

