

## **Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, Public Law 110-351**

### **Purpose**

In support of decreasing the time children linger in foster care without permanency, Public Law 110-351, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, was enacted to improve permanency outcomes for children and maintain children's familial and cultural connections. When a child enters placement, the public or private custodial agency must make diligent efforts to maintain connections by:

1. *Placing siblings together whenever safely possible to do so.* Siblings are frequently placed in separate out of home substitute care settings. In cases where the children cannot be placed together, the agency is responsible for developing a visitation plan that facilitates ongoing and frequent communication between siblings unless it will compromise a child's safety.
2. *Locating and Notifying Relatives* of the child's placement. Often, the child's relatives/kin are able and willing to provide care for the child, thereby reducing the need for substitute care placement and increasing the family/cultural connection between the child and extended family members.

Identifying and locating non-custodial parents, relatives, and kin of the child may provide the following opportunities and positive outcomes:

- Building, expanding and/or maintaining relationships for the child.
- Timely identification of a permanent home for the child.
- Allowing the agency to move expeditiously toward adoption or another permanent placement if no relative is able to provide a home for the child.
- Having family members serve as a temporary relative foster care placement.
- Building or enhancing the family's support network, so that the child can be reunified and safely maintained in his or her own home.
- Encouraging participation in family group conferences, case planning and permanency planning, and developing creative solutions to the identified safety and risk concerns.
- Assistance in locating a non-custodial or absent parent.

[Note: The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and the Multiethnic Placement Act both require notice to relatives. Fostering Connections Act (effective 9/13/2011) does not replace or modify such provisions.]

## Resources

### **Applicable Ohio Administrative Code Rules:**

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|---------------------|--|
| <b>5101:2-38-10</b> | Requirements for Completing the Semiannual Administrative Review.      |
| <b>5101:2-39-01</b> | Removal of a Child From His or Her Own Home                            |
| <b>5101:2-38-05</b> | PCSA Case Plan for Children in Custody or Under Protective Supervision |
| <b>5101:2-39-01</b> | Removal of a Child From His or Her Own Home                            |

<http://emanualtest.odjfs.state.oh.us/emanuals/>

### **Other Information and Resources:**

Fostering Connections To Success and Increasing Adoptions Act 2008, P.L. 110-351:  
[http://www.fosteringconnections.org/tools/assets/files/Public\\_Law\\_110-351.pdf](http://www.fosteringconnections.org/tools/assets/files/Public_Law_110-351.pdf)

Additional articles and state level information on implementation of Fostering Connections: <http://www.fosteringconnections.org>

National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections  
[http://www.nrcpfc.org/fostering\\_connections/education.html](http://www.nrcpfc.org/fostering_connections/education.html)

Child Welfare Information Gateway: <http://www.childwelfare.gov/>