

OUR COMMITMENT

Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions is committed to providing the highest quality of service to children, youth and families.

While positive comments are always welcome, it is equally important for us to know when there is a problem. This allows us to resolve it and retain your confidence.

Feedback received from clients will be addressed in a responsible, respectful and timely manner.

Your feedback helps us to improve the quality of our service.

If you would like to provide feedback to us you can refer to the Family Feedback Form available in all of our branch office receptions, by asking a staff member or by visiting us at familyconnexions.ca

We appreciate your input.

WHERE TO FIND US:

Barrie

60 Bell Farm Road, Unit 7, L4M 5G6
(705) 726-6587 or 1-800-461-4236

Bracebridge

193 Manitoba Street, Unit 5, P1L 1S3
(705) 645-4426

Collingwood

186 Hurontario Street, Unit 105, L9Y 4T4
(705) 444-9160

Huntsville

81 Main Street West, P1H 1X1
(705) 789-8866

Midland

741 Yonge Street, Units 7 & 8, L4R 2E1
(705) 526-9341

Orillia

250 West Street N, Unit 3, L3V 5C9
(705) 325-1005 or 1-800-422-9970

HOW TO CONNECT WITH US:

1-800-461-4236

familyconnexions.ca

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OUR VALUES

Collaboration **A**ccountability **R**espect **E**quity

Simcoe Muskoka
Family Connexions
Connexions Familiales
de Simcoe Muskoka

FAMILY FINDING





WHAT IS FAMILY FINDING?

A process that uses intensive search efforts to identify, locate and engage family members and kith (friends/neighbours/circle of support) of children/youth in out-of-home care (i.e., foster care) in order to:

- Enhance supports for the parents to assist the child/youth to return home.
- Increase/restore connections and contact for the child/youth with family and community.
- Explore any potential care plans so that the child/youth can be with their family/kith/community instead of foster care.

Family Finding is part of SMFC's legal obligation to explore family involvement for children in our care, including participation in planning, decision making, and care/placement.

Family Finding is part of SMFC's commitment to address the over-representation of Black and Indigenous children in care along with the disparity in service delivery, practices and outcomes experienced by both groups.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF FAMILY FINDING:

Family Finding is child/youth focused and tailored to meet their needs and identity. The child/youth's voice is important and will be included in the process.

A meaningful, lifelong connection to kin/kith/community helps the child/youth develop a sense of belonging and is associated with positive outcomes.

Every child/youth deserves and can have a permanent family. Permanency can be achieved through reunification with the parent(s), a Parenting Order (Custody within the family), Customary Care, or adoption. Long-term foster care is not a suitable permanent plan for children.

Families are the best possible people to make decisions about keeping their young relative(s) safe and planning for their future.



WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

The Family Finding Worker will contact the parents, paternal and maternal relatives, kith, and older children and youth. When the Family Finding Worker speaks with relatives, they will focus on just sharing information about the child/youth and will not share the parent's private information. If a parent identifies the need for specific supports, this could also be shared, with the parent's consent (i.e., transportation, childcare, etc.).

The Family Finding Worker will complete a genogram (family tree) and also a social history document about each parent and their families (this document looks at things like the cultural background of the family, medical history etc.).

SMFC's goal is to involve families in the planning process for their child/youth and for the family to develop a permanency plan whenever possible. A family meeting may be organized to bring the family and kith together to develop a plan that is in the best interests of the child/youth.