



New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual

1503 MAINTAINING CONNECTIONS

Chapter: **Case Management Standards for CP and JJ Field Services**

Section: **Engaging Families**

Approved:

Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr., DCYF Director

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References Of Note

Federal Authority: [SSA 471](#), [SSA 475](#), [25 CFR 23.107](#), and [45 CFR 1356.21](#)

Statutes: [RSA 169-B](#), [RSA 169-C](#), and [RSA 169-D](#)

Administrative Rules:

Case Law:

This policy defines practices to assist children and youth in maintaining important connections when there is an open Child Protective Services (CPS) or Juvenile Justice Services (JJS) case.

Required Practices

Any deviations to the following information must be documented with Supervisory Approval.

- I. Ongoing efforts shall be made to identify and promote healthy connections with the following parties for children throughout the life of the case, regardless of placement status:
 - A. Their parents;
 - B. Any siblings if applicable;
 - C. Relatives; and
 - D. Community connections.
- II. CPSW/JPPOs must inquire into a child's Native American Heritage initially and throughout the case, until the CPSW/JPPO can document there is no reason to believe a child is an Indian child, or tribal membership is confirmed.
 - A. The CPSW/JPPO must ensure due diligence is made to identify the Tribe(s).
 - B. Any case in which it is determined that a child or their parents are members of, or eligible to be members of, a federally recognized Indian Tribe must be clearly documented and managed pursuant to policy 1510 Identifying and Collaborating with Tribal Agencies.
- III. When a child is removed from their home, the CPSW/JPPO shall make concerted efforts to identify and maintain their important connections until permanency has been achieved. This shall include:

- A. Identification and notification of relatives and consideration of placement options that support the child maintaining their connections;
 - B. Maintaining contact with individuals with whom they have significant relationships; and
 - C. Opportunities to participate in cultural, faith-based, or recreational activities in their home community.
- IV. The use of visits (or other forms of contact) as a punitive measure is prohibited.
- A. A family's compliance or non-compliance with the case plan shall not be the sole determinant in deciding parenting time.
 - B. Communications with a child's connections shall not be withheld as a consequence.
- V. Unless mitigating circumstances warrant an alternative plan, children shall be placed:
- A. With siblings (if also in placement);
 - 1. If circumstances require that siblings be placed separately, efforts shall be made to help them maintain their existing connection;
 - B. With relatives; and
 - C. In their community.
 - 1. If the decision is made that a child cannot be maintained in their community, efforts shall be made to help them maintain their existing community connections during their placement, until they return to their community.
- VI. Placement of any child who is a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe must be completed in compliance with policy 1510.
- VII. Maintaining a child's important connections shall be a consideration in all permanency planning and there shall be ongoing assessment of how a child's connections have been maintained. This shall include:
- A. Review at all Permanency Planning Team (PPT) meetings (as applicable), Individual Treatment Plan (ITP) meetings, and all other treatment meetings where appropriate, as well as in regular supervision; and
 - B. Reporting to the Court efforts, progress, and barriers (including efforts to overcome barriers) around maintaining connections.

VIII. All efforts to place children with relatives or within their community, as well as efforts to maintain connections, shall be documented in the DCYF electronic information system.

Standard Operating Procedures		
SOP	Title	Applicable Disciplines
1503.1	Maintaining Parent/Child Connections-CPS	CPS
1503.2	Maintaining Youth/Parent Connections-JJS	JJS
1503.3	Maintaining Sibling Connections-CPS	CPS
1503.4	Maintaining Sibling Connections-JJS	JJS
1503.5	Maintaining Community and Other Important Connections	CPS and JJS

Glossary and Document Specific Definitions

A - B C - D E - F G - I J - L M - N O - Q R - S T - V W - Z

Document Change Log			
PD	Modification Made	Approved	Date