

## **PROCESS FOR LOCATING ABSENT FATHERS**

Get ready to be a detective! The Child Welfare professional should employ the following steps when attempting to locate the child's father:

### **Step 1 – Talk to People with Whom the Father May Have Had Contact**

- ➔ ***Ask the Mother*** – If the Child Welfare professional observes the lack of a father in the household, the first step should be to ask the mother about the whereabouts of the father and his relationship with the child, both past and current. Ask the mother for the father's name, address and phone number. At the very least, mother may be able to provide the father's social security number or employer.
  
- ➔ ***Check with Extended Family Members*** – If mother does not know the father's last address, his extended family members might. The Child Welfare professional should ask the parents, siblings, and grandparents of the father for his last known address.

### **Step 2 – Check State and Federal Data Bases**

- ➔ ***Check Through Public Assistance/Domestic Relations/Social Security*** – If the father is receiving any form of public assistance, this office might be able to provide his last known address.
  
- ➔ ***Check Federal and State Prison Registries*** – Even if a father's past criminal history is unknown by the mother or Child Welfare professional, a criminal check may yield an address. This check may also find the father incarcerated.
  
- ➔ ***Federal Parent Locator Service*** – If a father is overdue on child support payments, this office may know the father's last known address.  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/newhire>

### **Step 3 – Do an On-Line Search**

- ➔ ***On-Line Search for Missing Persons*** – The following sites may be the start for an on-line search for missing persons. Many more sites may be found by typing in "search for missing persons" on your internet browser. Some organizations may charge a nominal fee.

<http://www.whitepages.com/>

<http://www.locateamerica.com/>

<http://www.people-finder.com/>

<http://www.advsearch.com/person.htm>

<http://www.uslocate.com/>

<http://www.aaronspi.com/>

<http://www.amerifind.com/>

[http://www.alphagp.com/missing\\_persons/index.html](http://www.alphagp.com/missing_persons/index.html)

## **PROCESS FOR LOCATING ABSENT FATHERS (continued)**

### **Step 4 – Advertise in the Newspaper**

- ➔ Lastly, a notice should be placed in the newspaper which was the father’s last known jurisdiction giving the father’s name and asking for “information about the last known whereabouts of...” This assures the court that you have made all attempts to find the father.

### **Step 5 – Diligent Search**

- ➔ The Legal Services Initiative (LSI) has a Diligent Search Packet on line. Each county uses their own procedure to search for parents, but the packet includes sample procedure forms and checklists as well as contact information for offices that have data bases.
  - [www.diakon-swan.org](http://www.diakon-swan.org) – Legal Services Initiative Link

