



4435 West Pine Blvd • St. Louis, MO 63108 • 314-531-3183 • 314-531-3164 fax

Diligent Ongoing Relative Search (DORS)

Previous research has found that, while in foster care, children placed with relatives experience greater placement stability and have better mental health and behavioral outcomes than children placed with non-relatives (Winokur et al, 2018).

The Diligent Ongoing Relative Search service provides immediate relative search services for children entering foster care in St. Louis County, St. Louis City and Jefferson County focusing on placement and ongoing support. This service aims to identify family and kinship providers for all children in foster care as early as 48 hours after entering alternative care but continuing those search efforts up to and beyond 30 days when necessary. In addition, Diligent Ongoing Relative Search services will be available for those cases that have been open for longer periods of time with no family or kinship identified. The service will support case managers in assisting them with meeting the Child Placement Diligent Search expectations of Children's Division, included in Senate Bill 186, Sections 210.305 & 210.565. The DORS staff will utilize different search tools to find relatives for the child(ren) and be in regular consistent communication with the case manager and team.

Available Services by the DORS Staff

- Database searches to locate family and kin
- Background checks for potential placements
- Interviews with child, parents and family members
- Documentation fulfilling the requirements of legislation and CD policy

How to Refer:

Criteria for DORS:

- Child(ren) must be in the legal custody of Children's Division in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, or Jefferson County jurisdiction.
- Child(ren) must be under the age of 18 years.
- Child(ren) must be referred within 5 business days of custody being established.

Ongoing Case Relative Search services:

- Child(ren) must be in the legal custody of Children's Division in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, or Jefferson County jurisdiction.
- Child(ren) must be under the age of 18 years.
- Child(ren) already in care and in need of relative placement.

Send completed referral form in a secure email to:

cfsreferrals@ourlittlehaven.org or Fax: **314.531.3164** Attn: DORS