



**Kim Cummins, LMSW**  
Chief Officer  
Foster Care & Residential Services  
518.426.2725  
Kim.Cummins@nrfs.org

**Colleen Vogel, MSW**  
Senior Program Director  
Foster Care Services  
518.857.8027  
Colleen.Vogel@nrfs.org

**Julia Barton**  
Family Finding Specialist  
518.651.1375  
Julia.Barton@nrfs.org

# Family Finding Services

*Helping families stay strong together*

Northern Rivers provides family finding services as an in-kind service to selected youth within our system of care. Counties interested in this service, or on a case-by-case basis, can contact the program for more information.

## Family Finding and Diligent Search Tasks

Northern Rivers Family Finding Specialists provide intensive, short-term, diligent searches to identify potential kin. Using basic birth family information, a minimum of 25 to 30 potential kin are identified with potential contact numbers, addresses, and social media accounts.

By connecting with fictive and/or nonfictive kin, the objective is to create a supportive network for the youth, which could result in the significant adult becoming a visiting resource, kinship foster parent, legal guardian, or adoptive parent as potential outcomes.

We provide the following ways to discover multiple family members and supportive adults:

- Rapid-response summary of identified kin and genograms
- Comprehensive genograms, mapping of family supports and resources
- Case file reviews and database searches to identify extended family
- Youth interviews to discuss family and family supports
- Meetings with biological parent and other identified resources
- Service Plan Review participation
- Court hearing support

By engaging the identified biological family members and nonfamily members through conversations, and/or family team meetings, we hope to identify that significant adult in their life who has the capability of supporting the safety and well-being of that youth and plan for a successful future.

*These are services provided by  
Northern Rivers Family of Services  
member agencies.*

**NORTHERN  
RIVERS**