



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

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

**Devon Barrett**  
Kinship and Family Finding Services  
518.225.7114  
Devon.Barrett@nrfs.org

# Family Finding Services

*Helping families stay strong together*

The federal Family First Prevention Services Act reinforces the belief that children should be kept with family whenever possible, and that when out-of-home placement is necessary that trauma to children be minimized. To help, Northern Rivers Family Finding offers a comprehensive approach to identify and support family and/or strong familial connections to serve as certified foster parents for these youth. Placing youth in a foster home with their family lessens trauma and leads to greater long-term success.

## Northern Rivers 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. Depending on the preference of local departments of social services (LDSS), Family Finding Specialists may attempt initial contact with identified kin to assess their interest, or provide LDSS with findings and discuss next steps.

We provide:

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

## Kinship Foster Parent Support

For prospective kinship homes and families who are identified through the family finding process and who are interested in caring for their kin (fictive kin) but need added support, Northern Rivers is able to emergency certify them as foster parents.

- Northern Rivers provides intensive support and guidance for kinship families as they work through the certification process through case management, clinical and nursing services.
- After certification, Northern Rivers continues its support of those families on their journey through kinship care, whether it be reunification with family members, KinGap, or adoption.
- Children placed with Northern Rivers through kinship certification receive the same supports as any child placed with a Northern Rivers home.

Kinship families sometimes require more levels of support than traditional foster families because emergency kinship resources are often not prepared for this new responsibility and may need extra care, guidance, and support. The Northern Rivers foster care team is available 24/7/365 both on call and in home to not only meet all the needs of the youth, but also to the kinship family.

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

**NORTHERN  
RIVERS**