

## STEPHEN'S SCENARIO—FINDING CONNECTIONS

Stephen is ten (10) years old and has returned to foster care following a guardianship disruption with Mary V in Northern California less than six months after the guardianship was established. Stephen originally entered care at the age of 6 along with 3 half siblings. His oldest sister Becky is now 18 years old and has aged-out of foster care. He also has a 14 yr old brother, Michael, who was returned to his father, Miguel, following a successful reunification plan. His now 11-year-old sister, Rachel, was adopted by her paternal relatives last year. Each of the siblings has a different father; they share the same mother.

Stephen's placement history is that he had five foster care placements until he was placed in a group home through Best Ever Foster Care. He lived in that group home for one year. Nine months ago he transitioned to the foster care home of Mary V., and six months later guardianship was established with her.

Stephen has been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He receives psychotropic medications for his diagnoses and behaviors. Otherwise, Stephen is in good health. Since transitioning from the group home to the foster care home of Mary V., his behaviors and social skills have improved. Mary V began suffering serious health problems three months ago that eventually inhibited her ability to provide daily care for Stephen. Stephen has been in an emergency foster care placement for 2 weeks since Mary V became unable to care for him.

Stephen regularly visits with the maternal side of his family. His mother, Megan, has been clean and sober for the past 14 months and he sees her infrequently since she moved to Reno, Nevada. She writes occasionally and sends Stephen birthday cards and gifts. The whereabouts of Stephen's father is unknown.

Stephen's interests are raising and showing rabbits through 4-H Club and he enjoys playing on a local soccer team. He attended a large nondenominational church with Mary V as well as the mid-week youth program at the church.

Which person(s) would you follow up with to find possible permanent connections for Stephen and why

1. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

16. \_\_\_\_\_

## ENGAGING STEPHEN

You have decided that you would like to interview Stephen to promote his understanding of the process and learn about his family, including who he misses and would like contact with.

Given what you know about Stephen, what questions do you anticipate he will have?

---

---

---

How would you approach Stephen?

---

---

---

What are you most curious about?

---

---

---

What questions do you want to ask Stephen?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## ENGAGING POTENTIAL CONNECTIONS

After meeting with Stephen and understanding who is most important to him, you have determined you would like to get to know the following people:

- Mary V (the previous guardian and foster mother)
- Miguel (Birth Father of Stephen's 14 year old brother)
- Maternal Grandmother Helen
- Birth Mother Megan
- Birth Father Henry
- Soccer Coach Jenny
- Therapist Ron
- Current Foster Mother and Father Janet and Rick
- Older sister Becky

Take a few minutes to review the approaches and questions from the Tree of Life, along with the Questions for Finding Naturally Connected Networks.

Choose someone from the list above and identify what questions or concerns you could anticipate they will have. How will you approach them to best connect with them? What are you most curious about? Please write down 5-7 potential questions you will be ready to ask them in order to learn the most about who they are, their history and relationship with Stephen, and what role they would like to play in his life.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---