

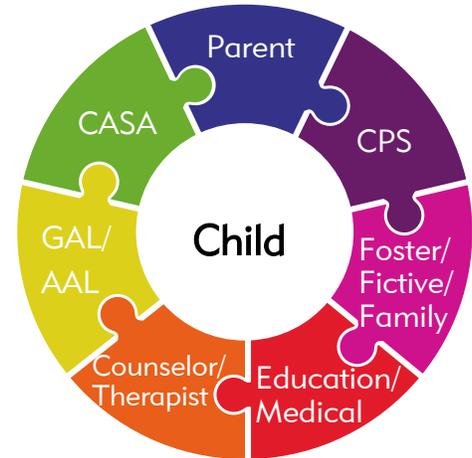
COLLABORATIVE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (CFE)

WHAT IS CFE?

CFE is an innovative Family Finding partnership between CASA and Child Protective Services (CPS). CFE uses a structured approach that is built around the fact that children have many blood relatives and other important connections that can be identified, located and engaged with—providing children and families with a dedicated support system that is meant to last even after CASA and CPS involvement. CFE is all about connections, and the CFE team works together to explore potential positive connections identified by the family.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

There are many members of the CFE team. In addition to CFE team members, emphasis is placed on maximum involvement from both families and other identified connections.



HOW DOES CFE WORK?

There are four elements, known as the four C's, that are at the heart of CFE. They are Collaborate, Cultivate, Convene and Connect. During the Collaborate phase, CFE uses teams and greater collaboration between systems to involve families and build networks. During the Cultivate phase, CFE utilizes different tools that can be used to engage, connect and/or find families. During the Convene phase, families are brought together and are involved in the process using facilitated family meetings. During the Connect phase, the goal is connections and permanency; a lifetime network of supportive relationships is formed for the child and their parents.

Collaborate

Greater collaboration between stakeholders to involve families and build networks

Cultivate

Access to connection, engagement and searching tools to engage and find family/important relationships

Convene

Families and their support network come together for family meetings

Connect

A lifetime network of supportive relationships is formed for the child and their parents

WHY DOES CFE WORK?

Knowing that every child in the child welfare system has experienced trauma to some degree, CFE strives to decrease long-lasting issues and help these children move on with their lives in a family environment. Working together to strengthen families helps provide accountability, safety, placement, permanency and healing. CFE also recognizes children heal through relationships, and that every child has a family who can be found through perseverance.





**COLLABORATIVE
FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT
TOOLS**

A Pocket Guide for Connecting with
& Searching for Families



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services



TEXASCASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CONNECTEDNESS MAP

A connectedness map is a quick and easy tool that uses simple shapes and lines to illustrate a person's connections (or lack of connections).



HELPFUL TIPS

- This tool is helpful in quickly determining the level of urgency needed for connection
- Utilize with a child or adult by asking who is in their life
- Adaptable to a person's needs or approach (e.g. write out everyone's names, add a check mark or heart for each person named, include lines to show mutual connection, etc.)
- Use different colors to indicate different kinds of connections (e.g. biological, love, spiritual, mental, cultural, etc.)
- If lots of people appear on the map, ask the person where these people are now, how can we contact them, can we invite them to a family meeting? If few people appear on the map, have a conversation about why this is worrisome as everyone needs a team around them and ask who would like to help them become more connected?

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE ACTIVITY

- Who loves and cares about this person?
- Who is going to be there for this person after they are no longer in foster care?
- Who cares about you/your family and is a support to you?

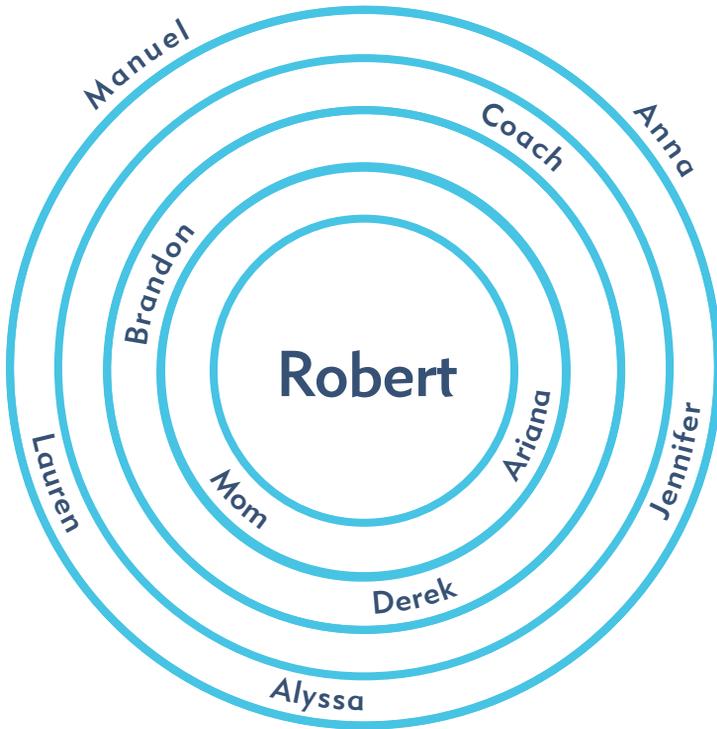


CIRCLES OF TRUST

A diagram of concentric circles with a person's name in the center and people they are connected to in the same or outer circles.

HELPFUL TIPS:

- Ask the person to identify people in their life and place them in the circle that best represents how close they are to them
- The closer the people are to the middle, the closer the relationship is, and the more support they provide to the person completing the activity
- Ask the person where they would place CPS or CASA



MOBILITY MAPPING

A mobility map is a visual timeline of a person's life created by having them draw places they've lived and people from their earliest memory to the present day.

HELPFUL TIPS:

- Tape flip chart paper on the wall, or use the sample template created by Texas CASA. Encourage the person to stand, if able, and use markers to create/fill out their mobility map
- Start with drawing the first place the person remembers living in, and build from there
- Draw as much as the person can remember about each person and place
- Draw only people that the person identifies as important
- Focus on the positive and good things in that person's life
- Redirect away from negative memories but acknowledge them if they arise
- Ask questions organically as they arise out of what is being drawn
- Schedule one hour for children and two hours for adults to complete this activity
- The map can be built upon at subsequent visits

Texas CASA has mobility map templates available. Request a copy by emailing cfeteam@texascasa.org.



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SAMPLE QUESTIONS TO GUIDE ACTIVITY:

- Where was the first place you remember living?
- What did it look like? Can you draw it for me?
- Who lived there with you?
- Can you draw them and write their names?
- What school did you go to?
- Did you have a favorite teacher or coach?
- Can you draw the school and the teacher in it?
- What was your favorite holiday?
- What did you do and who did you celebrate it with?

SAMPLE QUESTIONS TO ASK AFTER COMPLETING A MOBILITY MAP:

- Pick a different color and note different symbols beside people for each of the following: who has a special place in your heart (e.g. red heart), who are you not fond of (e.g. blue x), who would you like to search for and invite to a meeting to plan for your future (e.g. a yellow check mark). Make a legend to remember what each symbol represents.
- What five things do you need most right now to be the happiest you could be? Try to include the identified needs in the service plan.
- What five things make you awesome?

HEART CONNECTION OR WHO WAS GOOD TO ME

NO HEART CONNECTION OR WHO WAS NOT GOOD TO ME

SOMEONE I MISS, WOULD LIKE TO GET IN CONTACT WITH OR AM CURIOUS ABOUT

WHO MIGHT WANT TO BE A PART OF MY NETWORK OR OFFER SUPPORT

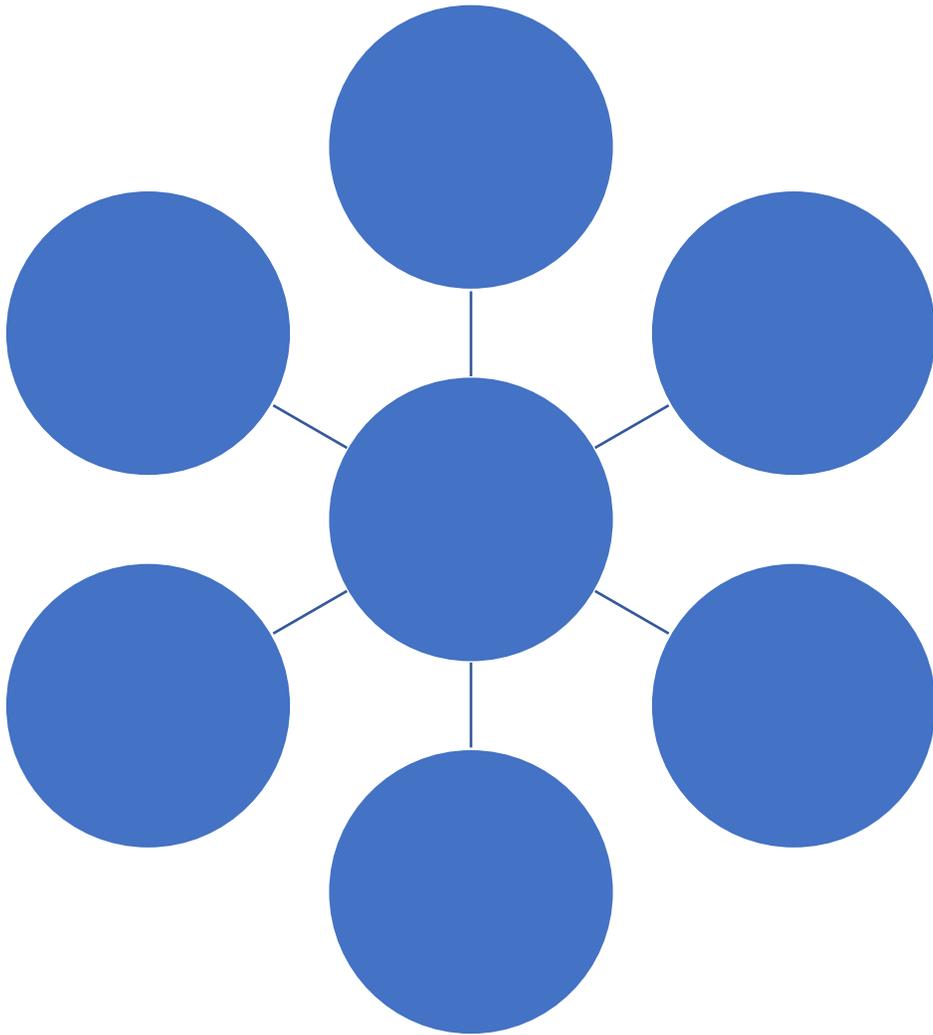


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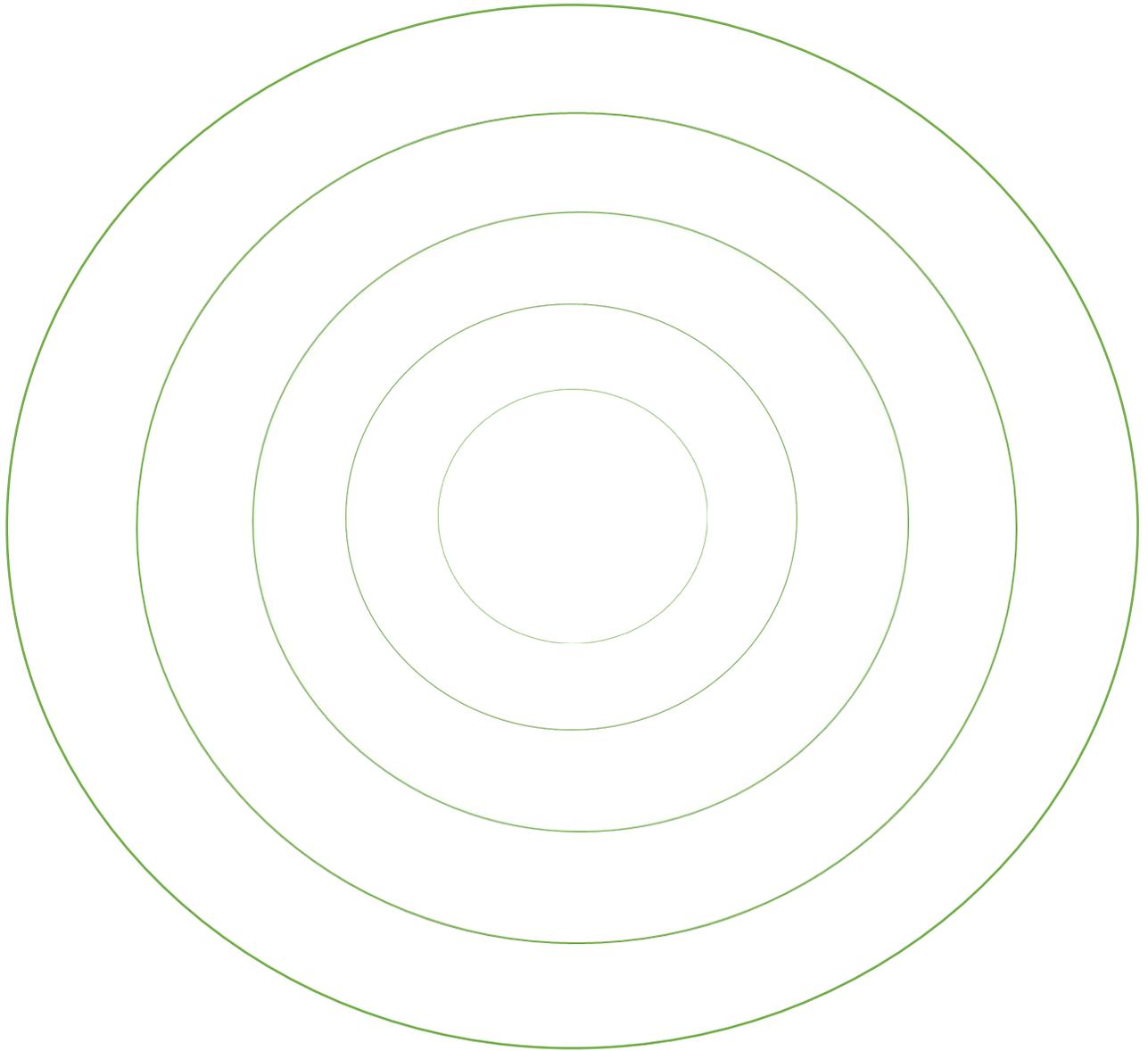


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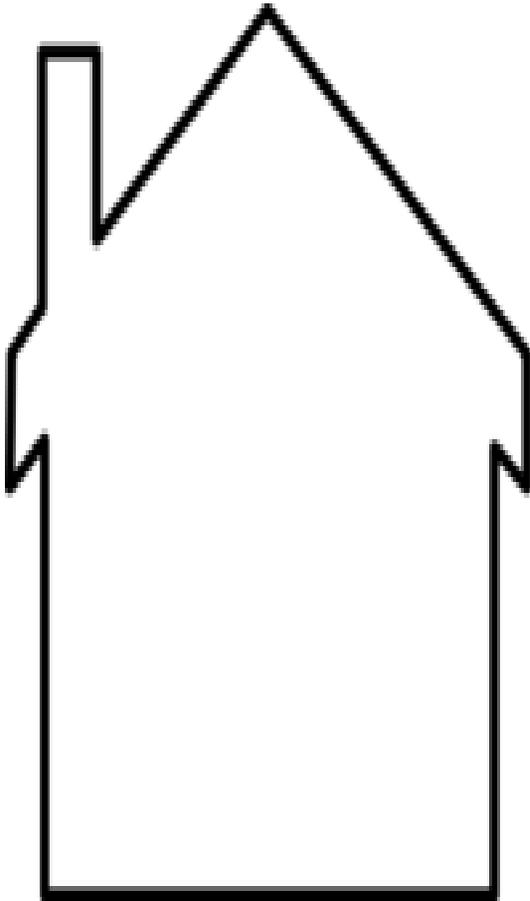
Connectedness Map



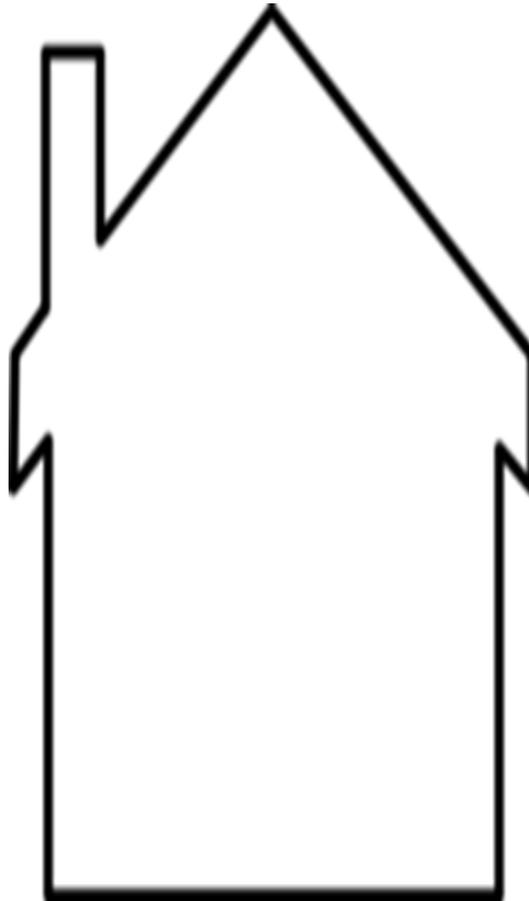
Circles of Trust



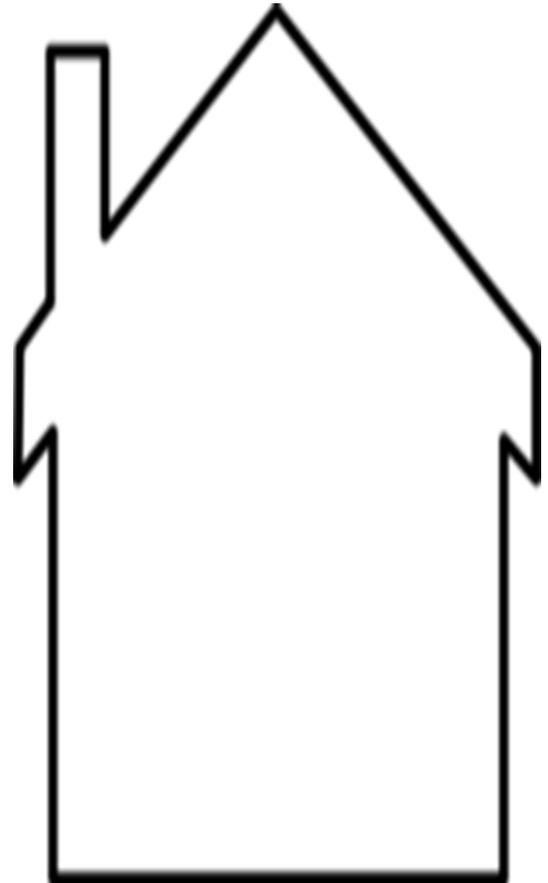
Three Houses



Worries



Good Things



Dreams/Hopes