NAME OF THE METHOD	Family Finding
CHARACTERISTICS **According to strengths model**	Social relations Confidence Resources
MAIN GOALS	Find people's 'family'/network
REGION OF IMPLEMENTATION *Please fill in the geographical area(s) in which the method is used.*	Originally from the USA, but used in a range of other countries.
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK/IDEA/VIEW *When a certain view on care or a specific theoretical framework is used, please add it here.*	"1) Every child has a family, and they can be found if we try 2) Loneliness can be devastating, even dangerous, and is experienced by most children in out of home care 3) A meaningful connection to family helps a child develop a sense of belonging, and 4) The single factor most closely associated with positive outcomes for children is meaningful, lifelong connections to family" (National Institute for Permanent Family Connectedness, 2018)
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE METHOD / IMPLEMENTATION *Describe the method in general. How is the method implemented?*	FF tries to find people that are estranged from the youngster, but are willing to take up a commitment towards them. The goals are: making connections, these might also provide a stable living environment, enhance family driven decision making and try to make them less dependent on formal care, and finally, prevent recidivism. "The essential elements of the Family Finding model include: 1. **Urgency:** Family Finding views meaningful, supportive, permanent relationships with loving adults to be an essential need that is closely tied to youth safety. Family Finding asks practitioners to urgently pursue these relationships for lonely youth by assertively engaging family and strongly challenging the structural barriers to developing or strengthening these relationships. 2. **Expanded definition of permanency:** Although physical legal permanence is an explicit outcome for most cases, Family Finding defines permanency as a state of permanent belonging, which includes knowledge of personal history and identity, as well as a range of involved and supportive adults rather than just one legal resource. 3. **Effective relative search:** Family Finding employs a variety of effective and immediate techniques to first identify no fewer than 40 relatives or other meaningful connections for each youth. The number 40 serves to create a large group of people from which to form a smaller tight-knit, unconditionally committed permanency team. 4. **Family-driven processes:** Family Finding recognizes that families are disempowered by the placement of relative children outside of the family system, and it seeks to remediate that harm through identifying the strengths and assets of each family member and facilitating processes through which families are able to effectively support their relative children. 5. **Development of multiple plans:** The Family Finding process will result in not just one plan for legal permanency, but multiple plans that are each able to meet the needs of disconnected youth. No fewer than three plans are developed and evaluated by family members to ensure that they are realistic, sustainable, and safe. 6. **Well-defined and tactical procedures:** Family Finding begins first with careful preparation and alignment of current team members in order to pursue the six steps of the Family Finding model. While it is a strongly values-based model, it also has clear

	and definable goals and activities that are easily tracked with a fidelity tool. The six steps include: • Discovery • Engagement • Planning • Decision Making • Evaluation • Follow-up on Supports" (https://www.cera.be/nl/maatschappelijkeprojecten/mso/gr005623_rubicon, methodiekenfiche Family Finding)
STEPS OR PHASES *Does the method have a stepwise process? Which are the steps?*	• Discovery: creating more options for support for the youngster. • Engagement by people that are willing and know the youngster • Planning: network meetings to plan the future of the child • Decision Making keeping in mind the best interest of the child • Evaluation: is a plan set up with an achievable timeline? • Follow-up on Support: provide essential formal and informal support
MATERIAL *Which material is needed?*	Practical stuff, f.e. pens, paper, a room… to hold meetings.
COST OF THE METHOD (EXCL. PERSONEL) *Is the method freely available or not?*	Freely available on: http://familyfinding.org/index.html Trainings are also available and cost about $3000.
COMPETENCES OF THE AFTER CARE WORKER(S) *Are any specific competences required? Can it be implemented by professionals, volunteers, …?*	Conversational methods to ask the youngster about people in their life that might be of help.
IN WHICH WAY IS THE METHOD SUCCESSFUL? *Explain why the method works or seems to work, under which conditions. If research has been done on the method, please also add the information (link, publication, …).*	One research has as a result that to strengthen family connections FF is successful, but the permanency outcomes give mixed results, so further research is needed (Landsman, Boel-Studt & Malone, 2014).
MORE INFORMATION AT *Is a website or publication available?*	http://familyfinding.org/index.html http://familyfinding.org/assets/files/ %20Six%20Steps%281%29.pdf