

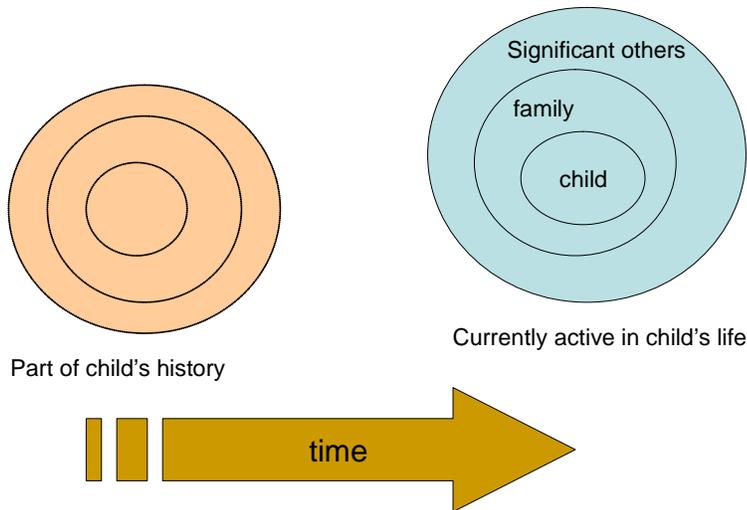


Technical Assistance Tools
Permanency Planning Instrument
Section 1. Part 2.
Background Information

Identifying the child's relationships

You can use this simple “social map” to help identify the important relationships in a child’s life. Social mapping looks at the people and places who are already within the child’s social environment and those who have been important in the past. To fill in the map requires working with the family and others who know the child and the child’s history. This tool can help to identify the information that is needed to complete Section 1. Part 2.

Child's relationships



There are two parts to the process.

First identify the people who have had important relationships in the child’s life.

- Who are the known immediate family members?
- What are the known extended family members?

- Of the caregivers in the child's life is there an individual who has a special connection that has extended beyond their shift and could be a relationship that is maintained into adulthood?
- Are there other individuals in the child's past who have had a special relationship with the child?

Second identify how active these important relationships currently are in the child's daily life.

- How often does the individual interact with the child?
- How often does the child see the individual?
- How much time does the individual spend with the child?
- In what other ways does the individual interact with the child or on the child's behalf?
- How available is the individual to the child?
- How predictable is the individual's availability to the child?

Social Mapping for a child can be done in cooperation with many different individuals. Often the information is drawn primarily from the child's parents, but it can also come from close relatives, facility staff, casemanagers, or service coordinators. For the process to be successful the people providing information must have an awareness of the child's family, history, and current daily routine.

The purpose of this section is:

- (1) to document the people in the child's experience who provide a source of emotional connection,
- (2) to explore how to assure those people can play a role in the child's life now and into adulthood,
- (3) to explore how to facilitate reconnecting the child or increasing the level of interaction the child has with important relationships which are not currently active.