



FOSTER & ADOPTIVE CARE COALITION  
FOR EVERY CHILD... A PLACE TO CALL HOME

## **30 Days to Family™ Continued Family Planning Summary**

*(Example)*

Child's Full Name	DOB	Client ID#
John Marcus Alexander	1/1/2009	1111111

**30 Days to Family™ Worker:** Allison Worker

**30 Days to Family™ Start Date:** 7/25/2013

**Closing Date:** 8/24/2013

**Case Management Agency:** Agency #1

**Case Manager:** Jane Green

**CM Supervisor:** Susan Brown

**Court Jurisdiction:** Family Court of XYZ County

**Deputy Juvenile Officer:** Rachel White

### **Program Overview**

The purpose of 30 Days to Family™ is to expand efforts to find safe, appropriate relative and kin supports for children entering foster care. One goal of the program is to assist in meeting the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (2008) 30-day standard of notifying a child's adult relatives of their option to participate in the care and placement of the child. The initial search is for non-custodial parents, grandparents, and siblings, but the goal is that at least 80 additional relatives will be identified and explored. Because foster care placements can be fragile, the goal is to identify at least three relatives or kin as potential placement providers (one primary and two back-up providers). Maternal and paternal relatives are explored with equal interest. In all cases, every effort is made to keep siblings together, maintain children in their school of origin, and preserve the child's important relationships with friends and supportive adults.

### **Summary of Efforts**

At the time of the initial 30 Days to Family™ referral, three (3) family members had been identified. Through diligent search efforts, John's family tree expanded to include **one hundred eighty nine (189) known relatives and kin at the time of case closure**. Initial and closing family genograms are included with this report to reflect the known family connections.

On July 24, 2013 custody was taken of John Alexander due to allegations that his father had been physically abusive and his mother had failed to protect John from the abuse.

On July 26, 2013 a Family Support Team meeting was held following the Protective Custody Hearing. John's mother, Cheryl Alexander, was able to participate. John's father was incarcerated on charges for the alleged child abuse and was unable to participate. Ms. Alexander expressed confusion over why her son could not immediately be returned to her, but agreed to work toward reunification by complying with court ordered services. Ms. Alexander reported that she had few relatives in the area, but that her mother was a potential source of support. She provided contact information for her mother. Ms. Alexander also reported that she had another son who was not in protective custody.

Child's Placement at the time of referral: Traditional Non-Relative Foster Home

Child's Placement at the conclusion of 30 Days to Family™ services: Catherine Alexander, Maternal Grandmother

Date of Child's Placement with Relatives/Kin: 8/24/2013

### **Back-up Relative/Kin Placement Options:**

Edna Dodge, Maternal Aunt

Kathryn Johnson, Paternal Aunt

Lisa Perez, Paternal Second Cousin

Identified Supports:

Edna Dodge, Maternal Aunt  
Kathryn Johnson, Paternal Aunt  
Sarah Johnson, Paternal Aunt  
Lisa Perez, Paternal Second Cousin

Further information on all interested relative and kinship supports can be referenced in the 30 Days to Family™ Relative/Kin Contact Log, Roadmap to Family, and the family genogram.

**Diligent Search**

30 Days to Family™ strives to assist the case manager with meeting the notification standards of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act. In a diligent effort to identify and locate John's adult relatives, the 30 Days to Family™ Specialist engaged in the following activities and searches:

Children's Division database & social file review: Review of Missouri Children's Division electronic data information system with Children's Division worker Jane Green to gather information recorded through the family's prior history and involvement

General Individual Locator searches: Google, Pipl.com, Intelius.com, Spokeo, Zabasearch, Mylife.com, Peoplefinders.com, Mocavo.com, and WhitePages.com

Social Media searches: Facebook, YouTube, Google+, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram, Classmates.com, Bebo.com, and MySpace

Legal Proceedings/Court Records: Missouri Case.net searches for Missouri legal proceedings, Missouri & National Sex Offender Registries, Madison County IL Circuit Clerk Court Record Database, and Review of XYZ County Juvenile Court Social File

Offender/Inmate search & Law Enforcement Involvement: Vinelink, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Missouri Department of Corrections, Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System, and United States Immigration and Custom Enforcement Detainee Database; Phone calls to local Sheriff's Department to gather additional information on family members' prior arrests; Request made to Las Vegas, NV Police Department for a courtesy notification of Las Vegas resident, maternal great aunt Ginger Boyd

Personal Property and Real Estate Tax Records: St. Louis County Online Personal Property & Real Estate Tax Records, St. Louis City Online Real Estate Property Records, and St. Louis City hard copy file review of personal property tax records; Farm subsidy database; In person search for Paternal Family Member Brad Brady through conversations with Bent Oak Properties Apartment Complex Manager and requesting the delivery of a letter addressed to Mr. Brady

Birth and death records (including obituary and genealogical family listings): Internet searches of legacy.com, archives.com, familysearch.org, stltoday.com, findagrave.com, tributes.com, internment.com, Missouri Digital Heritage website, St. Louis Public Library, ancestry.com; request made to Albert Jones Funeral Home to obtain a copy of the payment information, memorial card, and guest sign-in for Harold Seesay's recent services

Professional and/or Business Registration: MO Division of Professional Registration licensee search, MO Secretary of State Business Entity search

Paid databases: Privateeye.com and Tracers database (searches for individual records of: name, phone, address, property, marriage, divorce, birth, and/or death)

Interviews with relatives & kin (in person and via phone)

## **Family & Kin Participation**

30 Days to Family™ identifies those who can offer support to the child and family and/or provide further information about the family. Family members were asked to provide identifying and/or contact information for all of John's adult relatives. Through information provided by the family, along with the diligent search efforts outlined above, this Specialist located and interviewed the following individuals:

- John Alexander —Child

### ***Maternal Relatives***

- Cheryl Alexander—Mother
- Catherine Alexander—Grandmother (Cheryl's Mother)
- Frank Alexander—Uncle (Cheryl's Brother)
- Andrew Alexander—Uncle (Cheryl's Brother)
- Betty Allen—Aunt (Cheryl's Sister)
- Edna Dodge—Aunt (Cheryl's Sister)
- Tom Allen—Uncle (Cheryl's Brother in Law)
- Lonnie Carr—Aunt (Cheryl's Sister)
- Dan Boon—Uncle (Cheryl's Step-brother)
- Sharon Smits—Great Aunt (Cheryl's Maternal Aunt)
- Lisa Smits—Second Cousin (Cheryl's Maternal Cousin)
- Lilly Carter—Second Cousin (Cheryl's Maternal Cousin)
- Jane Smits—Second cousin (Cheryl's Maternal Cousin)

### ***Paternal Relatives***

- Logan Johnson—Father
- Kathryn Johnson—Aunt (Logan's Sister)
- Sarah Johnson—Aunt (Logan's Sister)
- Sandra Johnson—Aunt (Logan's Sister)
- Andrea Jones—Aunt (Logan's Sister)
- Nikki Jones—Aunt (Logan's Sister)
- Lisa Perez—Second Cousin (Logan's Paternal Cousin)
- Richard Perez—Great Uncle (Logan's Paternal Uncle in Law)
- Cathy Regan—Cousin (Logan's Maternal Niece)
- Kelly Jones—Cousin (Logan's Maternal Niece)
- Tom Regan—Cousin (Logan's Maternal Nephew)

### ***Kin (Non-Relative Supports)***

- Leona Schaeffer—Ms. Alexander's Friend
- Deborah Martin—Ms. Alexander's Friend
- Pamela O'Neal—Ms. Alexander's Friend
- Tara Kaplan—Ms. Alexander's Friend
- Nikki Longs—Close Friend of Maternal family
- Marsha House—Close Friend of Paternal family
- David House—Close Friend of Paternal family
- Jason Smalls—John's Best Friend
- Angela Smalls—Mother of Jason Smalls (John's best friend's mother)

It should be noted that each individual listed on the family genogram was named by family as an important support, or was identified through diligent search efforts. Although attempts to locate and/or contact each and every relative may not have been successful within the first 30 days, each individual is an important person in John's life, and attempts to locate and contact should continue throughout the time John remains in care.

### **Child & Sibling Information**

**John Alexander**

**DOB: 1/1/2009**

**Current Placement: Catherine Alexander, Maternal Grandmother**

John entered alternative due to severe physical abuse allegations against John's father, Logan Johnson. Mr. Johnson continues to await trial on these allegations. There was not a specific abuse or neglect allegation against John's mother, Ms. Cheryl Alexander, in the original petition.

John was visited by this Specialist on numerous occasions. He was always pleasant and outgoing, with a wonderful sense of humor. John expressed how much he wished to go home; he was concerned about his younger brother, Derrick (age 3), and had a difficult time understanding why Derrick could remain in his mother's home and he could not.

**Derrick Alexander, John's Brother**

**DOB: 10/10/2010**

**Current Placement: Edna Dodge, Maternal Aunt (Cheryl's Sister)**

Although John was placed in alternative care, the Court did not take jurisdiction of Derrick and he remained in his mother's physical and legal custody. John and Derrick shared a special relationship and are very close. After John was removed from his mother's home, the brothers were able to continue frequent visits with each other at their grandmother's home.

At the conclusion of 30 Days to Family services, Ms. Cheryl Alexander was being evicted from her home. Because she was afraid the Court would take protective custody of Derrick if she did not have stable housing, Ms. Alexander agreed to allow her sister, Edna Dodge, to take Derrick back to the state of Alabama until she could stabilize her living situation. Ms. Dodge returns to Missouri frequently so the siblings have monthly visits. Additionally, the siblings enjoy electronic video communication through Skype.

### **Maternal Family Information**

**Mother:**

**Cheryl Alexander**

**DOB: 5/1/1993**

**SSN: 111-11-1111**

**123 Main Street**

**St. Louis, MO 63111**

**314.555.5555**

Contact was made with Cheryl Alexander at her residence on July 25, 2013 by this Specialist. Ms. Alexander reported that she did not understand why John was removed from her custody. Ms. Alexander was able to provide only limited family information, stating that the majority of her family continues to reside in the state of Washington and she knew very little about them. Ms. Alexander stated that she had spoken with her mother, Catherine Alexander, John's Maternal Grandmother, and Ms. Alexander had expressed interest in caring for John. Ms. Cheryl Alexander provided Ms. Catherine Alexander's contact information.

Throughout 30 Days to Family involvement, there were several contacts made with Ms. Cheryl Alexander. She repeatedly expressed her desire to have John returned to her custody, but in the meantime wished her mother to become placement for John.

**Maternal Grandmother (Identified Relative Placement Provider):**

**Catherine Alexander**

**DOB: 1/1/1962**

**SSN: 222-22-2222**

**234 1<sup>st</sup> Street**

**St. Louis, MO 63112**

**314.777.7777**

Contact was made with Catherine Alexander on July 25, 2013. Ms. Alexander was notified of her grandson's placement in alternative care. Ms. Alexander immediately requested that she be considered as a placement for John. She stated that John spent a great deal of time at her home when he was living with his mother. A safety walk through was conducted at Ms. Alexander's residence on July 26, 2013. Her home appeared to be appropriate and met all state licensing standards.

Ms. Alexander resides in a two bedroom, one bath, bungalow style home located in the ABC Mills Neighborhood. There were no other individuals residing with Ms. Alexander and she was prepared for immediate placement of John. This Specialist observed the bedroom prepared for John: The room was furnished with a twin bed, dresser, desk, and closet. The home is approximately 800 square feet, and is appropriately furnished and decorated. Safety features of the home include three smoke detectors and one carbon monoxide detector. The 5 pound fire extinguisher and emergency exit plan are both located in the kitchen area. Ms. Alexander's outside property is fenced and no dangerous hazards were noted.

Ms. Catherine Alexander assured this Specialist that even though her daughter Cheryl Alexander resided in close proximity to her, there would not be any issue with unauthorized contact between John and his mother if he was placed with Catherine. Ms. Catherine Alexander was adamant that her daughter would not be allowed at her home if John was placed with her. She did express that she would like to have John and his brother Derrick visit often, and assured that this would be a priority for her. The Social Services Home Safety Walkthrough & Checklist Form and all initial licensing documentation was completed with Catherine Alexander by this Specialist on July 26, 2013 and forwarded to the team.

Ms. Catherine Alexander works full-time at the local XYZ County Hotel as a support service associate. Her hours vary, and Ms. Alexander works some evening and weekend hours; Ms. Alexander has made arrangements to accommodate supervision of John while she is at work. This Specialist worked with Ms. Alexander to identify several child care centers in her neighborhood that are contracted with the state, and Ms. Alexander visited each site to determine the best center for John. The center has evening hours to accommodate Ms. Alexander's weekday employment hours and Ms. Alexander identified four neighbors and close friends that were approved to assist with childcare on the weekends. Those individuals are:

- Leona Schaeffer – Ms. Alexander's Friend
- Deborah Martin – Ms. Alexander's Friend
- Pamela O'Neal – Ms. Alexander's Friend
- Tara Kaplan – Ms. Alexander's Friend

Additionally, this Specialist spoke with Ms. Alexander's supervisor, Ms. Geraldina George, who verified she would ensure Ms. Alexander has ample notice of her schedule so she could make plans for John's supervision. Ms. George also verified she would allow Ms. Alexander to adjust her work hours for any activities associated with John's care, including court hearings, school activities, or Family Support Team meetings.

Maternal Grandfather:

**Carl Jackson Alexander**

Deceased

DOB: 1/1/1945

DOD: 1/1/2010

Services: New Hope Church  
9 Hope Road  
St. Louis, MO 63110  
314.888.3333

Burial: St. Peter's Cemetery  
18 Peter & Paul Road  
St. Louis, MO 63110

Ms. Alexander reported that prior to her husband's death, he was very involved with his children and grandchildren. Mr. Alexander passed away suddenly in 2010 after suffering a heart attack. Heart disease is prominent in the Alexander family; Ms. Alexander stressed the importance of diet and exercise for her children and grandchildren now that she is aware of the hereditary factor.

Ms. Alexander reported she visits her husband's grave often and she and John share many stories about the fun times they had with Carl Alexander while he was alive.

Mr. Alexander was a military man, serving his country as a medic until he was 42 years old. It was Mr. Alexander's military service that resulted in Mr. and Mrs. Alexander moving from their home state of Washington and relocating to St. Louis, Missouri. The family moved to St. Louis over 35 years ago, but still keeps in contact with their out of state relatives.

### **Paternal Family Information**

Although several paternal family members expressed a desire to provide placement or support for John, the team was unwilling to consider paternal family involvement due to the severe physical abuse John suffered at the hands of his father. It has not been alleged that any other paternal family members abused John, or condoned the abuse in any manner.

Several paternal family members were very engaged in the process of collecting photographs and family memorabilia for John. They sent many photos that this Specialist provided to John, along with several photo albums to hold the family photos.

In adhering to the practice of family involvement and engagement of both maternal *and* paternal family members, as outlined in the official state policy, 30 Days to Family would strongly urge the professional team to allow John contact with approved paternal family members. The desired involvement of these paternal family members is outlined in the attached Roadmap to Family.

#### **Father:**

##### **Logan Johnson**

DOB: 8/7/1987

SSN: 333-33-3333

Incarcerated: St. Louis City Jail Facility

321 4<sup>th</sup> Street

St. Louis, MO 63101

Facility Contact: Adriane Barnes—314.555.5555

On July 26, 2013, this Specialist interviewed Mr. Johnson at the St. Louis City Jail Facility and notified him that John had been removed from Ms. Cheryl Alexander's physical custody and placed into alternative care. Mr. Johnson is incarcerated on felony charges for allegedly physically abusing John. Mr. Johnson stated he had not had any contact with Ms. Cheryl Alexander or John since his arrest. When asked about paternity, Mr. Johnson stated he believed that he was on John's birth certificate. Paternity was later confirmed after this Specialist verified Mr. Johnson's name on John's birth certificate.

When questioned regarding possible relatives to explore as potential placement options, Mr. Johnson reported that his sisters, Kathryn Johnson and Sarah Johnson, would be ideal choices as possible placement options; both sisters are familiar with John. Mr. Johnson disclosed to this Specialist that he was in alternative care as a child himself. Because of his multiple foster care disruptions and residential placements, Mr. Johnson strongly desired John be placed with family members so he would not experience the same patterns of multiple movements that Logan did as a child.

Mr. Johnson explained that when he was a child, he was originally removed from his father's custody due to allegations of inadequate housing. Prior to moving with his father, Mr. Johnson and his siblings lived with his mother, Shelley Johnson. The family reported that their mother would often leave the children in the care of a registered sex offender. Once these allegations were reported, Mrs. Johnson reportedly took the children to her ex-husband, Mr. William Johnson, and left them. The family stated they never heard from her again and are unaware of her current whereabouts. During his foster care placements, Mr. Johnson was the victim of physical abuse by several of his placement providers.

At the conclusion of 30 Days to Family services, Mr. Johnson was still awaiting trial regarding the original physical abuse allegations.

#### **Paternal Grandmother:**

##### **Shelley Johnson**

DOB: 5/1/1960

SSN: 444-44-4444

Address: Unknown

Contact was not made with Mrs. Johnson. Family members had no knowledge of Mrs. Johnson's whereabouts. No one had had contact with her for numerous years and no one was able to provide an approximate location for this Specialist to search. Review of previous state and court files were not effective. Various online searches were also utilized in an attempt to locate Mrs. Johnson, but these were also unsuccessful.

Paternal Grandfather:

**William Johnson**

DOB: 3/3/1933

SSN: 555-555-5555

300 River Street, Room 876

St. Louis, MO 63110

Per conversations with several family members, Mr. Johnson resides in a nursing home and has little cognitive recognition of family members. Case records showed that Mr. Johnson suffered from an organic brain disorder. The medical specialists involved with Mr. William Johnson's care indicated any stressful news could have a severe negative impact on Mr. Johnson's health. With the probability that contact could have an adverse effect on Mr. Johnson's health, and his living situation prohibiting John's placement with him, the professional team deemed Mr. Johnson should not be contacted.

**Identified Relative Placement Resource**

As noted above, John is placed with his **maternal grandmother, Catherine Alexander**. The placement occurred on 8/24/2013.

**Potential Back-Up Relative Placement Resources**

**Edna Dodge, Maternal Aunt (Cheryl's Sister)**

DOB: 8/3/1983

SSN: 987-65-4321

1000 Broadway South Drive

Forks, WA 98331

Phone Number: 987.555.5555

Mrs. Dodge resides with her husband, Aaron Dodge and her daughter, Nora Dodge in Forks, Washington. Mrs. Dodge is very interested in pursuing licensure to be considered as a back-up placement option for John. She understands the requirements for placement and the process of ICPC. She reports a close relationship with John and, although she cannot see him on a daily basis due to distance, she speaks to him regularly on the phone, contacts him through Skype, and visits him monthly. Mrs. Dodge reported that she had frequently discussed the possibility of John and his brother, Derrick, moving with her to Washington, but Ms. Cheryl Alexander had always been hesitant.

In August 2013, the Dodge family traveled to St. Louis to visit with family. With the consent of Ms. Cheryl Alexander, they returned to Washington with John's little brother, Derrick and plan to apply for guardianship. Mr. and Mrs. Dodge continue to state that they would be willing, and are in the position, to care for John on a long term basis.

**Kathryn Johnson, Paternal Aunt (Logan's Sister)**

DOB: 8/2/1982

SSN: 777-77-7777

300 Long Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63111

314.222.2222 (Home)

314.888.8888 (Kathryn's Cell)

Ms. Johnson has expressed that she would like to be considered as a placement option for John. She is also interested in being a support and having continued frequent contact with John. Ms. Johnson stated that she last saw John in early July 2013 when she provided childcare for John when he was residing with his mother, Ms. Cheryl Alexander. Before that, she had not seen him since he was a baby. Due to her own family history and her time in foster care, Ms. Johnson felt strongly about family connections and very much wants to remain in John's life.

Ms. Johnson resides with her sister, Sarah Johnson; her fiancé, John Black; and her two children, Amy and Lewis, in close proximity to Ms. Catherine Alexander's home. Both Kathryn and Sarah Johnson are willing to provide additional childcare for John and have the flexible schedules to do so.

**Lisa Perez, John's Paternal Second Cousin (Logan's Paternal Cousin)**

DOB: 6/1/1966  
SSN: 888-88-8888  
400 Corner Road  
Warrenton, MO 64000  
Phone Number: 573.555.5555

Mrs. Perez is interested in being a backup placement option for John. She currently resides with her husband, Rickie Perez. Mrs. Perez is a licensed social worker and her husband owns a veterinarian business. Mrs. Perez stated that Logan and his brother, Don, were at one time placed at a residential facility; Mrs. Perez was employed at the facility at that same time. Following Don's placement at the residential center, Mrs. Perez became his placement provider. Mrs. Perez is concerned for the entire family and would like to provide assistance in any way possible.

**Closing Comments**

Ms. Catherine Alexander has demonstrated that she has a strong commitment to John and is capable of providing wonderful care to him. John is very bonded to his grandmother and is doing well in her home. There is a continued need to support this placement and assist Ms. Alexander in obtaining and maintaining approved supports.

Although Mrs. Dodge resides a significant distance away, she is a strong influence in both John's and Ms. Alexander's life. Mrs. Dodge has expressed her desire to have her mother and John return to Washington to be closer to her family and strong supports so that they may be of additional assistance. As Mr. and Mrs. Dodge are now caring for Derrick, it is urged that their home be approved for extended visits during holidays or summer vacations. The team will also need to determine if it is in John's best interest to initiate the ICPC process for John to move to Washington so the siblings can once again be placed together. 30 Days to Family is available to assist with the ICPC paperwork at the request of the team.

Understanding the reasons behind the team's concerns and adherence of a strict no-contact policy between John and his father, Mr. Johnson's family should still be considered as supports for John. John's Paternal Aunt Kathryn Johnson resides in close proximity to Ms. Alexander and has passed all appropriate criminal and child abuse and neglect checks. She and her sister, Sarah Johnson, have both expressed a desire to have continued contact with John and provide childcare assistance to Ms. Alexander. They have both been made aware of the order that John have no contact with his father, and have agreed not to allow any contact if they are approved as supports to John. The team should strongly consider them as resources, not only to assist Ms. Alexander, but also so John can remain actively connected to his paternal family members. They are, after all, his family.

**Supporting Documents Enclosed**

- Initial Genogram
- Closing Genogram
- Relative/Kin Contact Log
- Roadmap to Family
- Other: Paternal Family Members' Initial Licensure Paperwork & Verification of Clear Background Checks

**30 Days to Family™ Specialist:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**30 Days to Family™ Supervisor:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_