

# McDowell County



## Department of Social Services

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Find Families In Mexico  
Richard Villasana  
9450 Mira Mesa Blvd, Ste C520  
San Diego CA 92126

Mr. Villasana,

One of the most difficult challenges I face as a Foster Care Social Worker is when we have children who have family members living in another country. No training has prepared us to search out parents or extended family who speak another language, come from another culture. Still, it is painful to think that some child currently in U.S. foster care could be with blood relatives – perhaps not a perfect solution but at least one that has a chance at being humane – or, if we knew for certain that their family could not be found, we would be able to attempt a permanent placement.

It is with that thought that I wish to thank you for your recent work on my foster child case. The birth father was thought to be living in Guatemala. We had no hope of finding him, but because of our need to prove due diligence, we had to try, so we turned to your agency.

Find Families In Mexico was able to find and work with the appropriate Guatemalan agency. You provided us with a thorough report describing the obstacles and efforts made over the last few months to locate and notify the child's father. Your report gave us exactly what we needed to show we made the due diligence effort to find this relative.

It's now clear that we have done all that we can in this case, so it can now move forward as we have already placed the child with a prospective adoptive family.

You provide an important service to agencies such as ours and the children they serve. We would not only use your organization again in the future, we would feel comfortable recommending it to any foster care agency that needs help with finding a relative in Mexico or Guatemala.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa M. Burlison".

Teresa M Burlison  
Foster Care Social Worker IA&T  
McDowell County Department of Social Services