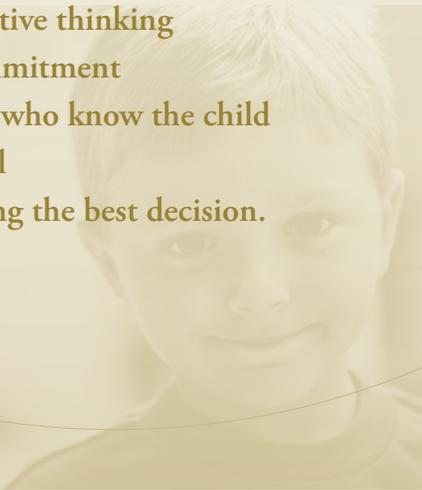


Family Team Decision-Making Meetings

The creative thinking
and commitment
of those who know the child
is critical
to making the best decision.



Working together
to keep children safe

*One mind alone can make one choice,
but many hearts together make better decisions.*



CA Children's Administration

DSHS 22-1170 (11/06)

What is a Family Team Decision-Making Meeting (FTDM)?

A Family Team Decision Making meeting is held when a decision needs to be made about where a child should live.

The FTDM “team” works together to address safety concerns and to make a plan that is best for the child.

FTDMs are attended by the parents, the child (unless deemed inappropriate), relatives, friends, neighbors, community members, service providers, caregivers, social workers and supervisors. Anyone the family would like to invite is welcome. If the child has a Guardian ad Litem, the GAL is invited.

A trained facilitator leads the meetings and makes sure everyone has a chance to share their ideas on how to best keep the child safe and support the family.

Meetings generally last between 1 and 2 hours.

What happens at the FTDM?

The facilitator helps the group:

- Understand why the meeting is needed
- Identify family strengths and learn about the needs of the child and family
- Come up with ideas to help
- Create a plan to best keep the child safe

Why have a FTDM?

Better decisions are made when everyone works together.

- There is more information
- There are more people to come up with creative ideas and more workable plans
- More people are available to support the child and family

What can be expected in a FTDM?

- Child safety will be the main focus
- Honest, straight talk will be encouraged
- Family strengths and what is working well within the family will be discussed
- Everyone will be encouraged to express their opinions and ideas
- Options and resources will be explored that will support the child and family

Who makes the decisions at the FTDM?

The goal of the meeting is to make a plan that everyone feels is in the best interests of the child. If the group is unable to come to an agreement, the social worker and supervisor are responsible to create the plan for the child.

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