

What is Family Team Decision-Making (FTDM)?

Family Team Decision-Making (FTDM) is a way for the family to work together with DHS to make plans and decisions about how to help the family. It draws upon a family's strengths, experiences, knowledge, and resources to create a plan that provides for the safety and well-being of children in the family.

There will be a meeting scheduled that involves people who care about you and want you and your family to do well.

Who comes to the meeting?

The meeting may involve your family, other relatives, friends, church members, or others in the community. You and your DHS ongoing social worker will determine whom to invite. The meeting may also involve people from the community who provide services to you and your family, like a family counselor.

An approved FTDM meeting facilitator will lead the meeting.

What happens before the meeting?

- Your FTDM meeting facilitator will meet with you and your family to describe what the meeting will be like and ask you what you would like to see happen as a result of the meeting.
- You will be asked, "At the end of this meeting, what would you like your family team to have accomplished?"

You and your facilitator will:

- Start to list strengths your family has that can be used to make things better.
- Make a plan on how your story will be shared at the meeting.
- Decide if you want to tell your family story at the meeting.
- Make a list of people you want to invite to the meeting.
- Decide on a time and place where you would feel comfortable having the meeting.

- Think about creative ways to solve any problems in getting the people together. For example, arranging child care or finding a ride to the meeting.

What happens at the meeting?

Family team meetings begin with the team members being introduced to each other. Next, the facilitator explains the purpose of the meeting and your family team develops rules for the meeting.

After that, your family story will be shared so that everyone knows the same information.

You and your team will then talk about your family strengths and how to use them to make things better.

Your team may choose to brainstorm what to do.

You and your team will create your family plan to address your goals and family needs.

How long will the meeting take?

The meeting usually takes 90 minutes to 2 hours. How long the meeting lasts depends on what needs to be done.

Will my children be at the meeting?

Children care about what happens in their family. Children are usually invited to the family team meeting because they have important things to say about what they would like to see happen.

You and your facilitator will decide if your children will be part of your family team meeting. Sometimes children do not attend or come for only part of the meeting, especially if they are younger.

If I have questions, who do I ask?

Contact your DHS ongoing social worker if you have questions.



Family Team Decision-Making Meetings

