

MEETING DETAILS

Date + Time _____

Location: _____

DCS Specialist's Name + Phone + Email: _____

DCS Supervisor's Name + Phone + Email: _____

The DCS Specialist can provide:

- Transportation
- Interpreter

(Please contact the DCS Specialist with specific needs.)



This is your family and your attendance is important! Decisions concerning your child are necessary and your voice matters!



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of **CHILD SAFETY**

TEAM DECISION MAKING (TDM)



*Involving your family and community
in decisions affecting your child.*



Please use the QR code or below
link to watch a short video:
<https://bit.ly/AZTDMvideo>



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CSO-2036 (Rev. 3-24)

WHAT IS A TDM MEETING?

A Team Decision Making (TDM) meeting is called by DCS because there is a concern for child safety. A TDM meeting is a family-centered approach to partnering with parents and their supports. A TDM meeting is a time to discuss the safety concerns, share ideas, and make a team decision about how to keep a child safe under the least restrictive plan.

When possible, meetings are held at a time and place that does not disrupt work and school schedules. Meetings typically last two hours, but may last longer if needed.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE MEETING

A trained meeting facilitator will guide a team discussion regarding:

- The reason for the meeting
- Child safety concerns
- Family and child strengths
- Ideas for ensuring child safety
- A team plan for ensuring child safety

Depending on the situation, one of the following meeting types will be scheduled:

SAFETY TDM: A child is determined to be unsafe or has been separated from their parent. The team will meet to discuss how to best resolve the safety concerns with the least restrictive plan possible.

PLACEMENT STABILITY TDM : There is planned move, or potential for an unplanned disruption to a child's foster care living arrangement.

PERMANENCY TDM: When conditions have been met for the child to return home, the team will develop a plan for the child to transition home. If transitioning home is not an option, the team will discuss and plan for other permanent living arrangements.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Parents, step-parents, and guardian to each child should attend, and are encouraged to invite other supports such as:

- Spouse, partner, or significant other
- Relatives
- Friends, neighbors, caregivers, or babysitters
- Community, religious, or cultural supports
- School supports (teacher, principal, coach)
- Service providers or others who work with the parent or family (therapist, domestic violence advocate, MAT clinician, substance abuse counselor, probation or parole officer)
- Tribal or consulate representative
- Military command

Children and youth (if their age and current situation permit safe and meaningful participation) should be included and are encouraged to invite their supports such as:

- Significant other, friends and their parents
- Relatives
- School supports (teachers, principal, coach)
- Community, religious, or cultural supports
- Service providers or others who work with the child or youth (therapist, counselor, probation officer, etc.)
- Other adults the child or youth identifies as helpful or important in their lives (Scout leader, employer, etc.)

The DCS Specialist and/or Supervisor will attend. With permission, the DCS Specialist may also invite service providers whom they think may serve as a resource or support to the family, parent, child or youth.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ATTEND

- When DCS partners with parents and their supports, there are more options available to ensure the least restrictive outcome.
- There is better understanding on behalf of DCS and the parents and their supports as to what is occurring and how to resolve it.
- When parents and their supports do not attend, DCS is still required to make decisions. The best decisions are made in partnership with parents and their supports.

TIPS FOR ATTENDEES

- Write down questions in advance and bring them to them to the meeting
- Bring something to help stay focused (drawing paper/pen, fidget item, etc.)
- Bring water and/or a snack if it will be needed
- Invite supportive people ahead of time
- Plan for unexpected traffic delays in order to arrive on time

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

The TDM meeting is a space to:

- Have a respectful and honest group conversation
- Share important information about a family's or individual's needs
- Share information about what has been helpful in the past (including past services or connections)
- Provide ideas that might help now or in the future
- Hear ideas from different points of view
- Ask questions in order to understand what is being said and to be clear on ideas and future plans
- Ask for support or help without being judged
- Be respected and show respect
- Have expected, unexpected, or mixed emotions - (sad, happy, scared, angry, annoyed, etc.)