

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.)



TEAM DECISION MAKING (TDM)



Getting involved in team decisions that affect you.



Please use the QR code or below link to watch a short video:
<https://bit.ly/3YD7Y6A>

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WHAT IS 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, children, youth, 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 or youth 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.

For children or youth living in foster care, a TDM meeting is also used to:

- Plan and prepare for caregiver changes,
- Plan and prepare for transitions home, or
- Plan and prepare for other living arrangements

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ATTEND?

- When DCS partners with parents, children, youth, 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, children, youth and their supports as to what is occurring and how to resolve it.
- When parents, children, youth, and their supports do not attend, DCS is still required to make decisions. The best decisions are made in partnership with parents, children, youth, and their supports.

WHAT WILL BE DISCUSSED

A trained meeting facilitator will guide a team discussion regarding:

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

For children or youth living in foster care, the team discussion may include ideas, plans, and preparations for:

- Caregiver changes,
- Transitions home, or
- Other living arrangements

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Parents, step-parents, and guardian to each child or youth 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.

PARENT, CHILD OR YOUTH 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.)

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

