

- ❖ Safety plans are outlined if needed
- ❖ CAS worker, other service provider(s) and/or speaker share information and the family group asks questions
- ❖ The child(ren) may share what they want their family to know

Part 2: Private Family Time

The family group has time to meet alone to decide your family group's plan to meet the CAS and family group's concerns.

Part 3: Review of Plan

- ❖ The plan the family group developed is presented to the CAS worker and manager and is accepted by CAS if it meets the CAS requirements.
- ❖ The details of putting the plan into place are discussed.
- ❖ A time to meet again to review progress may be set.
- ❖ A copy of the plan will be sent to you within 10 days of the meeting.

YOUR ROLE AS A FAMILY GROUP MEMBER

Before the FGDM meeting:

- Imagine what the meeting might be like and how you might feel
- What will you do if you get upset and who will help you
- Plan what you want to say and if it helps, write it down
- Think about how you may affect others and how they might feel
- Consider what you want from the meeting

During the FGDM meeting:

- Share with the family group how you see the situation
- Share how you feel the situation could best be dealt with
- Help family group members to say what's on their mind and to feel safe
- Listen to everyone's ideas so that the family group can develop a plan to make sure everyone is safe and cared for.

Everyone invited has a voice!!



FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING (FGDM)

WHAT IS FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING (FGDM)?

FGDM is a decision-making process that involves you, your relatives and friends, your Children's Aid Society (CAS) worker and manager, your child's lawyer, and other service providers to make a plan to help you and your family and to meet the concerns of the CAS.

FGDM gives you and your child's family and friends a way to make a plan that the family group believes will work best for all of you. If your plan meets the requirements of the CAS, then your plan also becomes the CAS plan.

FGDM is one of the approved methods of Alternative Dispute Resolution that the CAS is required to consider when a family is involved with CAS and decisions need to be made.

WHO IS IN THE FAMILY GROUP?

Your family group is made up of your child's relatives (both maternal and paternal), friends and anyone who feels like family to you.

The coordinator will help everyone decide who is in your family group.

WHY HAVE A FGDM?

- ✓ You know what will work best for your child and your family.
- ✓ It is a good way to talk about the safety of everyone in the family group.
- ✓ It helps the family group decide how family members and other service providers can help.
- ✓ You hear what the CAS worker and other service providers have to say and can ask them questions.

HOW TO REFER?

You can call FGDM to find out more information or to request a referral.

Your CAS worker makes the referral. You, your child, or anyone in your extended family can ask your CAS worker to make a referral.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

It takes several weeks to set up the meeting and prepare everyone based on the needs of each family.

The meeting goes until a plan has been reached and agreed on, so set aside the whole day.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A REFERRAL IS MADE?

The coordinator will meet with you to prepare you for the FGDM, which includes:

- Explain about FGDM, ask who is in your family group, and how to contact them all.
- Meet with everyone invited before the FGDM meeting to prepare them.
- Ask you if there are other service providers who could help your family understand something better.
- Child care, refreshments and a meal are provided and travel arrangements can be made.

WHAT HAPPENS IN A FGDM MEETING?

Part 1: Welcome and Information Sharing

- ❖ Greeting and welcome
- ❖ An opening that fits with your family's traditions & everyone introduces self
- ❖ Guidelines for respectful discussion are made