

WHEN IS THE MEETING?

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Address: _____

Worker: _____

Contact#: _____

Remember:

This meeting is your opportunity to speak about the safety of your child. You may invite key people who you think will be supportive to you and your family to this meeting. This may include family members and any community agency representatives you think would be helpful.

Please let your worker know who you are inviting, and make every effort to be on time.

* Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, services provided on a nondiscriminatory bases*

Why are we having this meeting?

Team Decision Making Meetings are held when a child's safety is in question. The idea is to allow an opportunity for honest discussion of the issues and challenges families experience with and for their children.

Every family faces challenges from time to time. With the help and assistance of you, your family members and other identified team members invited, we work with you to find solutions. We look to you as an expert on your family and children.

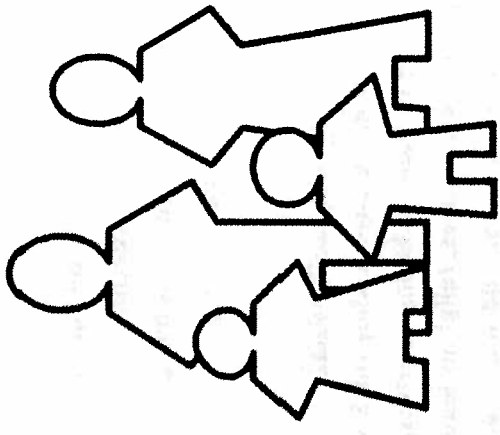
During the meeting we hope to identify and help you connect with any additional supports and services you may work with to raise a happy, health child.

Team Decision Making Meetings are part of a continuing effort to further the mission of the Children's Division:

The mission of the Children's Division is to partner with families and communities to protect children from abuse and neglect and to assure safety, permanency and well being for Missouri's children.

Team Decision Making

Making your voice heard for the safety and support of your children and family.



Saint Louis City Children's Division
A Proud Member of the
Saint Louis Family
&
Community Partnership.

What is Team Decision Making?

Team Decision Making (TDM) is a structured meeting called by Children's Division staff to discuss the safety of your children and any recommendations about safety, intervention or placement of your children.

When should a TDM be scheduled?

Team Decision Making meetings are scheduled when:

- A child's safety is in question and the child may need to be moved from their home into protective custody.
- When a child in the custody of the Children's Division is moved from one placement to another.
- Prior to a child returning to the home after placement.
- When a child in the custody of the Children's Division is reaching independence, a permanent living arrangement or guardianship.

Who can attend the meetings?

The family may invite anyone they think will be supportive to them including relatives, community representatives, religious leaders, friends, and neighbors. Should you or anyone you invite need any special accommodations, please notify the worker prior to the TDM.

Who else will be at the meeting?

In addition to yourself and those team members you invite, your worker, the worker's supervisor, community representatives and a facilitator.

In some cases, the staff may invite other agency representatives who may be able to provide help directly to the family.

What is a facilitator?

Our facilitators are specially trained Children's Division staff. The facilitator's role is to keep the meeting focused on the issues especially concerning the safety of the children. Your facilitator will promote honest discussion and assist in creating a plan for the family.

What are my rights?

- To express your feeling, and concerns; to share what your family and children need and to be heard.
- To be treated with respect and courtesy.
- To choose the people you wish to have present in the meeting to support you and your family.
- To know that matters discussed are held in confidence.
- To know you are in a safe place.

What will happen at the meeting?

Before we begin to talk with you and your team, the facilitator will explain the guidelines and agenda for the meeting.

The guidelines are:

1. The family has a right to privacy.
2. Everyone has a right to speak and ask questions.
3. We will treat each other with respect.
4. It's OK to disagree.
5. We encourage honesty without fault finding, shaming or blaming.

The meeting's plan will be to:

1. Each person introduces him/herself, who they are (parent, friend, community member, etc.) and some positive strength of the family or the child.
2. The reason for the meeting; What happened that involved your child?
3. What are the issues and concerns for the safety of the child and the family?
4. What ideas and suggestions can we think of to help address the issues and concerns?
5. From the Ideas Identified, what needs to happen next?
6. Review the decision and plan; answer any questions.