

What is a Child & Family Team Meeting?

A Child & Family Team Meeting (CFT) is a strength based meeting that brings together your family, natural supports, and formal resources. The meeting is lead by a trained facilitator to ensure that all participants have an opportunity to be involved and heard. The purpose of the meeting is to address the needs of your family and to build upon its strengths. The goal of the process is to enable your child(ren) to remain safely at home whenever possible.

The purpose of the Child & Family Team Meeting is grounded in the following principles:

- All families have strengths.
- Families are experts on themselves.
- Families deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Families can make well informed decisions about keeping their children safe when supported.
- Outcomes improve when families are involved in decision making.
- A team is often more capable of creative and higher quality decision making than an individual.



When is a Child & Family Team Meeting Necessary?

- A child has been found to be at high risk.
- A child is at risk of out of home placement.
- Prior to the removal of a child from his home.
- Prior to a placement change of a child already in care.
- Prior to a change in a child's permanency goal.
- When requested by a parent, social worker, or youth.
- When there are multiple agencies involved.
- At other critical decision points.

Who attends a Child & Family Team Meeting?

Teams may include: Family Members, Youth, Informal/Natural Supports, Service Providers, School staff, Attorneys, Guardian Ad Litem, Forster Parents, Court Personnel, and Social Worker. You and your family are encouraged to invite individuals who are supportive

What is a Strengths Discovery?

A Strengths Discovery is an informal meeting with your family that is generally conducted by the facilitator prior to your Child & Family Team Meeting. It is an opportunity to explore our family's culture, tradition, values, strengths, needs, and to identify your supports. This will allow the Facilitator to have a sense of who our are and what you need.

Meeting Location and Time

We believe that Child & Family Team Meetings should be conducted at a mutually agreeable and accessible location/time that maximizes opportunities for family participation. Please let us know your preferences regarding the time and location of your meeting.

You have the right to....

- Have your rights explained to you in a manner which is clear
- Receive written information or interpretation in your native language.
- Read, review, and receive written information regarding your child's record upon request.
- Understand how to access needed services and your rights to choose the provider for those services.
- Understand that written consent must be provided before you or your family members begin services as part of their Service/Care Plan.
- Understand the responsibilities of all parties to maintain confidentiality.
- Receive assessments, services and notifications in a timely manner.
- Understand the right to review, disagree, and/or appeal.
- Participate during the entire process when your child of family situation is being discussed.





I acknowledge that I received a copy of the Frederick County Department of Social Services Family Team Meeting Brochure.

Name

Date



Why are Child & Family Team Meetings beneficial to you and your family?

Together we can build a child and family team consisting of a natural network of people that you choose to be on your team.

Together we can work hard to find what is needed to help your family be successful and create desired changes.

Together we can find out what is needed to help your family manage and eliminate the stressors you are facing.

Together we follow the process called “wraparound”, which means that supports and services are “wrapped around” the child and family to support and sustain you beyond services received from the department.

Together we find creative solutions based upon your family’s strengths, needs, culture, values and community.

Together we will decide when you have achieved your goals.



Funding

In order to serve your family, funding may be needed to provide services to you that meet your specific needs. The Frederick County Department of Social Services may access certain funds which are governed by policies, regulations, and laws. We request that if you select the provider, you select a provider that accepts your insurance. We do understand that certain services this are not always covered by insurance. If certain funds are utilized for your family you may be assessed a co-pay.



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Child & Family Team Meetings

Working Together to Strengthen Families



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