



Frequently Asked Questions

WHO COMES TO THE CONFERENCE?

You and your family determine the invitation list. In preparation for the meeting, you and the coordinator will explore who to have in attendance.

HOW DO CHILDREN PARTICIPATE?

The coordinator will talk with the children and adults you want involved about how the children can best participate-whether in person, by written views, video, drawings, etc.

WHERE WILL THE CONFERENCE BE HELD?

The coordinator can assist you in selecting the most neutral environment possible to provide comfort and safety for everyone attending the meeting.

HOW LONG WILL THE CONFERENCE TAKE?

A meeting could last anywhere from 2-4 hours. This depends on how long Information Sharing and Private Family Time take, neither of which are limited in time.

IS THERE HELP WITH CHILDCARE AND/OR TRANSPORTATION?

If there are any barriers to getting your family together (for example: lack of childcare or transportation) the coordinator can help find creative ways to remove those barriers.

For more information:

Philadelphia Department of
Human Services

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Philadelphia
Department of
Human Services


FAMILY
GROUP
DECISION
MARKING




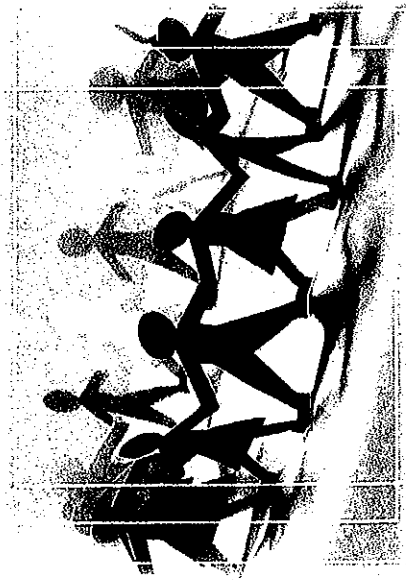
Creating an opportunity for the voice of families to be heard.

WHAT IS FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING (FGDM)?


 A meeting that involves immediate and extended family, support people, community members and service providers.

 A voluntary process that draws on family experiences, knowledge and resources to create plans that provide for the safety and well being of a family.

 FGDM strengthens partnerships, and collaboration between family and service providers.




HOW LONG UNTIL THE FGDM CONFERENCE?

 The length of time between the initial contact with the coordinator and the FGDM meeting varies based on the number of participants and scheduling. Preparation for the conference can take up to 3 weeks..




WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE?


 The coordinator will meet with each participant individually.

- Clearly describe the FGDM process and purpose for the meeting.
- Help participants understand their role before, during and after the meeting.


WHAT HAPPENS AT A FGDM CONFERENCE?

 Welcome and Information Sharing

- The conference begins with introductions, family rituals, guidelines and purpose.
- Family members and other participants share strengths and concerns.
- There is an opportunity for everyone to ask questions, share information, thoughts and ideas.
- All participants are invited to share a meal with the family.

 Private family time

- You and your family will have time alone to discuss the information shared and create a plan.

 Plan Presentation

- The entire group comes back together and the plan is presented, reviewed and fine tuned.

