

Preparing for your FTDM

Your DSS caseworker will work with you to establish when and where the meeting will be held. You can ask your DSS caseworker any questions you may have about the FTDM process and its purpose. Let your DSS caseworker know who you would like to have attend the meeting. Together you will decide who is important to be included in the meeting.

Meeting Details

Date:

Time:

Location: Virtual/Online
 On-Site Address:

Purpose:

"Our meeting was very successful and I found it to be a successful format. The facilitator did an excellent job making sure our child's voice was heard."

- Family Member



Maryland Department of Human Services
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Family Team Decision Meetings

Where every voice counts in making decisions.



What is a Family Team Decision Meeting?

A Family Team Decision Meeting, or FTDM, is an opportunity for youth and family members to come together with caregivers, community providers, the Department of Social Services (DSS), and other supports to make collaborative decisions regarding the safety, well-being, placement, and/or permanency of the child or children/youth.

Opportunities in an FTDM

FTDMs provide a setting that creates a safe space to have honest conversations and ask questions. The **facilitator** is a DSS employee that is neutral and not involved with the case. The facilitator is trained to ensure that everyone is respected and has their voice heard.

In an FTDM, you are part of the decision-making process and creating a plan for what happens next.

FTDMs are confidential to the extent permitted by Maryland law.

What to Expect

All participants at the FTDM will have honest and respectful conversations about the family's concerns and the best interest of the child or children/youth.

At the beginning of the FTDM, the team will come together to set the expectations for the meeting.

During the FTDM, the team will discuss:

- the safety of the child or children/youth,
- their living arrangement,
- the family's needs,
- services to meet the family's needs
- and/or how to help keep the family together.

At the end of the FTDM, the team will create a plan to address the concerns discussed in the meeting.

FTDMs last 1-2 hours and can be held virtually or in-person.

Who can attend?

- Child/youth (if age- or developmentally-appropriate)
- Family (may or may not be blood-related)
- CASA staff
- Legal representatives
- Foster parents
- DSS caseworkers and supervisors
- Kinship caregivers
- School personnel
- Therapists
- Faith-based supports
- Medical professionals
- Interpreters
- Other identified supports

