

ACS Commitment To Families

- ◆ No child we come into contact with will be left to struggle alone with abuse and neglect
- ◆ No family who needs and wants help to keep their children safe will be left without the help they need
- ◆ Every child we come into contact with will get the help she/he needs to be healthy and achieve his/her full educational and developmental potential
- ◆ No child in our care will leave us without a caring, committed permanent family

The FTC conference provides the opportunity for you to voice your ideas and concerns regarding your child's safety and well-being. Please feel free to invite anyone that you feel will be supportive in the conference and notify your worker of whom you are inviting.

Also, if you are receiving services with any other agency, please let your worker know so they can be invited to participate in the conference.

Talk with your caseworker if you need assistance with:

- ◆ Bus Tickets/Metrocards
- ◆ Child care
- ◆ Translation



Conference Information:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Social Worker: _____

Phone Number: _____



**NYC Administration
for Children's Services**

Michael R. Bloomberg, *Mayor*
John B. Mattingly, *Commissioner*

ACS Graphics 11/07

Family Team Conferencing

"Finding Your Voice And Being Heard"



NYC Administration for Children's Services
Division of Family Permanency Services
Office of Family Permanency Team Conferencing
(OFPTC)

Family Team Conferencing

What Is A Family Team Conference?

- ◆ A Family Team Conference (FTC) brings together people who are interested in and care about the family.
- ◆ The FTC meeting is held to ensure that the best possible decisions are made regarding the child's safety, permanency and well-being.
- ◆ The FTC meeting is focus on child safety and preserving family and community connections.

When Is A Family Team Conference Necessary?

- ◆ An FTC Conferencing Meeting can help make positive decisions when:
- ◆ A child is moving from one placement to another
- ◆ A child in foster care is being considered for reunification with their family, adoption, custody with relatives or court approved caretakers.
- ◆ Every three months to ensure appropriate and comprehensive permanency planning is occurring.

The commitment and creative thinking of those closest to the child are essential to making the best decisions.

Where Are FTC's Meetings Usually Held?

- ◆ Community based location
- ◆ Resource Center
- ◆ Provider Agency

The Office of Family Permanency Team Conferencing Facilitates Team-Making Decision Conferences For:

- ◆ Placement Preservation
- ◆ Goal Changes
- ◆ Re-unification
- ◆ Quarterly Permanency Conference

Who Participates In The FTC Conference?

- ◆ Parents/Guardians/Family/Relatives/Caregivers/Foster Parents
- ◆ Child as appropriate
- ◆ Youth Advocate
- ◆ Agency worker/Supervisor
- ◆ Community Partners
- ◆ Parent Advocate
- ◆ Others identified by the family or agency worker
- ◆ Facilitator
- ◆ Law Guardians
- ◆ Service Providers

What Happens At The Family Team Conference?

A trained ACS conference facilitator guides the conference through the following:

- ◆ **Introduction** (Purpose and goal)

- ◆ **Identify the Situation** (Define reason why we are together today)
- ◆ **Assess the Situation** (Determine the magnitude of the situation)
- ◆ **Develop Ideas** (Brainstorming ideas)
- ◆ **Reach Ideas** (Action plan developed)
- ◆ **Recap/Evaluation/Closing** (All will know who will do what, when? Questions)
- ◆ **Ground Rules**

What Are The Objectives of The FTC Conference?

- ◆ To reach an agreement about a plan that protects children, preserves or reunifies the family and establishes permanency for the children in the least restrictive, least intrusive setting.
- ◆ To make a comprehensive assessment of the family functioning, which includes examining the family's strengths and needs.
- ◆ To coordinate with various services providers and develop community support networks for the family

What Are The Benefits of The FTC Conference?

Team Decision Making:

- ◆ Encourages and provides children support to express their strengths, needs, and identify resources with whom they are connected.
- ◆ All participants have the opportunity to address their concerns in a supportive environment.
- ◆ Participants brainstorm to establish and agree upon a final plan of action.