

What are the benefits of the Child Safety Conferences?

- ' Fewer disruptions in the life of a child
- ' Broader participation leads to creative ideas and viable solutions
- ' People and places important to a child are acknowledged and respected
- ' Sharing of decision making and responsibilities
- ' Creating a safety plan to keep children at home, when it is safe to do so and out-of-home when necessary.

ACS' Commitment to Families

We Believe That:

- ' No child in this community should be left to face abuse or neglect alone.
- ' No family in this community should be left without the help it needs to raise its child safely.
- ' No child in this community should be denied the chance to grow up healthy and to learn up to his or her potential.
- ' No child should leave our community's care without a loving and protective family.

If you have any questions about the Child Safety Conferences, contact the field office or hotline staff listed below:

ACS Field Offices

BRONX: 2501 Grand Concourse,
Bronx, NY 10468
Tel. (718) 933-1212

BROOKLYN: 1274 Bedford Avenue,
Brooklyn, NY 11216
Tel. (718) 623-4975

MANHATTAN: 55 W 125th Street,
New York, NY 10027
Tel. (212) 426-2205

QUEENS: 165-15 Archer Avenue,
Jamaica, NY 11433
Tel. (718) 557-8939

STATEN ISLAND: 350 St. Mark's Place,
Staten Island, NY 10301
Tel. (718) 720-2817

Hotline Information

**PARENT'S & CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
HOTLINE:**

Tel. (212) 676-9421

**For additional information about
Children's Services programs for
children, adolescents and families,
Dial 311**

Child Safety Conference(CSC)

(Under Family Team Conferences)

*People coming together to make
decisions for the safety and well being
of children and their families*



NYC Children's Services

Michael R . Bloomberg, *Mayor*
John B. Mattingly, *Commissioner*
Jan Flory, *Deputy Commissioner*

Child Safety Conference(CSC)

What is a Child Safety Conference?

A Child Safety Conference (CSC) is a gathering of family members, their natural supports, including relatives, friends, neighbors, etc., who have responsibility and interest in protecting the child and who, together with ACS staff, service providers and community representatives, meet to thoroughly discuss the safety concerns, family strengths and resources in order to make the best safety decision for a child. The group works together to create a safety plan that is tailored to the individual needs of the child and the resources of the family, exploring in-home options if they address the safety concerns, or out-of-home placement, where necessary. The conference takes place in real time and the decision made therein must be effected immediately in the safety interest of the child(en).

“Child Safety Conferences” are a crucial tool ...

- ’ After an emergency removal has taken place to explore options.
- ’ When protective custody is being considered due to concerns for a child’s safety.
- ’ When legal intervention is being considered.

Participation of family members, their natural supports and the community is essential in making the best decisions for keeping children safe.

There are two types of CSCs in the Division of Child Protection:

- a. **Initial Child Safety Conference (ICSC)**, where decisions are made about the child(ren)’s safety;

and

- b. **Follow-Up Child Safety Conference (FCSC)**, where the service plan is reviewed and the family’s engagement is assessed.

What happens at an Initial Child Safety Conference?

The ICSC Participants focus on safety concerns, family strengths and available resources. The team brainstorms to develop and agree upon a final safety plan that is least restrictive and least intrusive for the child.

The ICSC is held:

- ’ In all active ACS cases in which the CPS staff has determined that a removal or other legal intervention is necessary to keep a child safe; except when seeking a warrant when parent(s) and child(ren)) cannot be located (A CSC will be held when they are found);
- ’ Within 24 hours after an emergency removal, before the filing of an Article 10 petition;
- ’ To determine whether to accept a voluntary placement request for a child;
- ’ On behalf of a Newborn when they are concerns about the mother’s ability to care for the child.

The Child Safety Conference is lead by a trained facilitator, who works with the group to consider everyone’s perspective and who helps the group reach the best safety decision. It begins with a brief history of what led to the CSC meeting and then there is a discussion of the family’s and child’s

strengths and challenges that serve as a means to developing a recommended safety plan. The group then comes together to finalize the details of the plan. CSC meetings are typically 1 1/2 to 2 hours in length.

Follow-Up Child Safety Conference (FCSC)

The purpose of the FCSC is to share information on the implementation of the service plan and on the child’s adjustment to foster care if the ICSC decision was placement. The FCSC takes place approximately 20 days after the ICSC.

Guidelines For An Effective Meeting

- ’ All Participants should contribute to the process with honesty and respect.
- ’ Each participant will have the opportunity to speak and be heard.
- ’ Participants need to express what they are willing to do and make commitments.
- ’ The focus is on safety and the needs of the child.
- ’ Everyone will be treated with dignity and respect.

Privacy and Confidentiality

A Child Safety Conference (CSC), while not a formal legal process, gives value to the family’s and the child’s right to privacy. All participants, other than the family and child, will be expected to sign an agreement to not discuss the content of the meeting with others.