

## WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

### Your role as a family member:

- To share how you see the situation.
- To share how you feel the situation could best be addressed.
- To create and agree, with your family, on a Plan that ensures everyone is safe and cared for.

### Preparing yourself:

- Imagine what the conference might be like.
- Think about how you might feel.
- Plan what you want to say. If it helps, write it down.
- Reflect on how you may affect others and how they might feel.
- Consider what you want from the conference.

If you have been invited to be a support person, you will help that family member express his or her opinion and feel safe.

### Your role as a service provider:

- To share your understanding of the concerns in the family.
- To note the strengths in the family.
- To be clear about any requirements and limits you may have.
- To note any resources that may be useful to the family.

### Your role as resource person/speaker:

- To use clear language to describe how the problem can affect a family
- To outline what services have been used by other families with this type of problem and what might be available to this family.

### Your Conference

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact Information

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# Family Group Conferencing

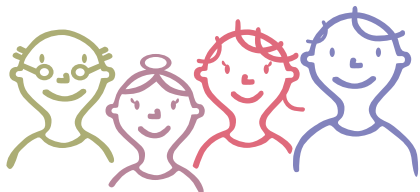


## WHAT IS A FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE?

Family Group Conferencing is a meeting that brings you and your children together with your relatives and friends to help your family create a “Plan of care” for your children.

The family is invited to become a primary author of the Plan.

### WHO IS THE FAMILY?



Your relatives, friends and anyone who feels like family to you.

**Everyone invited to the conference is important.**

## WHY USE FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING?

- Your whole family helps make a Plan to help the children.
- It is a good way of discussing the safety of everyone in the family.
- You know your children and your family best.
- It helps you look at strengths both within and outside the family, and how these can be used to everyone's benefit.
- You hear what the professionals have to say.
- You hear the concerns of other family members.

## HOW IS THE CONFERENCE ARRANGED?

- After your worker has discussed Family Group Conferencing with you, the Coordinator will contact you to explain what Family Group Conferencing is about. She/he will ask you who is in your family and how they can be contacted. The Coordinator will also ask whether there are other people who feel like part of the family, and who should be included.
- The Coordinator will approach these people and invite them to the conference.
- The Coordinator will prepare each person for the conference.
- The Coordinator will ask you which service providers should attend the meeting.
- Child care and refreshments are provided. Travel arrangements can be made.

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

It takes a few weeks to set up the meeting and to make sure everyone is prepared and included.

The meeting will go on for as long as necessary until a Plan is agreed upon - so set aside the whole day!

**A good meal will be provided!**

## WHAT HAPPENS IN A FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE?

### Part 1 – Welcome & Information Giving

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- The Coordinator greets and welcomes everyone.
- There is an opening that fits with the family's traditions.
- The Coordinator outlines the purpose of the conference.
- Each person introduces him or herself and shares a hope for the day.
- Guidelines for a respectful discussion are established.
- If needed, a safety Plan is outlined.
- The service providers share information about the family.
- The family asks the service providers questions.

### Part 2 – Family Private Time

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- The family has abundant time together without the professionals present in the room to consider new ways of helping the children and the family and to arrive at a Plan.

### Part 3 – Review of Plan

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- The Plan is presented to the Coordinator and the family's child welfare worker.
- The details of implementing the Plan are discussed and agreed upon.
- A second Family Group Conference is an available option.

A copy of the Plan will be sent to the family within 10 days of the meeting.