

## 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?

At the location of your choice. 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:  
York County Human Services**

**FGDM  
100 W. Market Street**

**Suite B129  
York, PA 17401  
(717) 771-9095**

**(800) 441-2025**

**<http://www.ychsd.org/>**



A collaborative effort between the York County Human Services Division and the York County Board of Commissioners



**York County  
Human Services**



**FAMILY  
GROUP  
DECISION  
MAKING**

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

## WHAT IS FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING (FGDM)?

- A meeting involving 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 focuses on the strengths of a family to address an extensive range of circumstances.
- A chance to let families be the decision makers, so they will invest in a plan toward positive change that promotes a future of decreased involvement in formal systems.

## HOW LONG UNTIL THE FGDM CONFERENCE?

- The length of time between initial contact with a coordinator and the FGDM meeting varies based on the number of participants and scheduling. Preparation for the conference takes approximately 4 weeks.

## WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE?

- The coordinator will meet with each participant individually:
  - To clearly describe the FGDM process and purpose for the meeting.
  - To 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.
- Everyone has an opportunity to ask questions and 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 strengthened.