

**WHEN IS A TEAM DECISION  
MAKING MEETING  
SCHEDULED?**

A Team Decision Making Meeting can help make positive decisions when:

- A child has been removed from his or her home.
- A child is in out of home care and a change in placement is required or requested.
- A child may be returning home.



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

**YOUR TEAM DECISION  
MAKING MEETING**

We appreciate your willingness to participate on short notice. **PLEASE ARRIVE 15 MINUTES EARLY.**

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

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

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

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

You are encouraged to invite anyone you feel will help you and your family.

Talk with the Social Worker if you need assistance with:

- Bus tickets
- Child care
- Interpretation

Social Worker: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

For other special needs or additional information about TDM, please contact the TDM Program at ( ) - .

Team Decision Making Program

Street Address

City, State, Zip

( ) -

Fax: ( ) -

DPSS 3668 (08/06) TDM Brochure

Riverside County

Children & Family Services



**TEAM  
DECISION  
MAKING**





## *Making decisions for the safety and well being of children*

### **WHAT IS A TDM MEETING?**

- A Team Decision Making (TDM) meeting brings together people who are interested in and care about the family.
- A TDM meeting is held to ensure that the best possible decisions are made regarding the child's safety and placement.
- The TDM meeting focus is on child safety and preserving family and community connections.



### **WHO MAY ATTEND A TDM MEETING?**

- Parents/Family Members/Caregivers
- People who support the family
- Social Workers/Supervisors
- Teacher/ Educational Representative
- Community Representatives, including Family Advocates.
- Service Providers
- Facilitator
- Others identified by the family or social worker

### **GUIDELINES FOR AN EFFECTIVE MEETING**

- All participants contribute to the process, being direct, honest and respectful of others.
- Each participant will have the opportunity to be heard.
- Participants make commitments to support the decisions made.

### **WHAT HAPPENS AT A TDM MEETING?**

A facilitator who is knowledgeable about Child Protective Services, laws and policies guides the meeting through the following::

- Introductions
- Meeting Guidelines, including confidentiality information
- Identification of:
  - The child's needs
  - The family's strengths and needs

- Community resources
- Action/Child safety plan
- Placement options, if necessary
- Educational Needs

### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A TDM MEETING?**

Good decisions are made because:

- More information becomes available.
- Broader participation leads to creative ideas and workable solutions.
- People and places important to a child are acknowledged and respected.

### **TEAM DECISION MAKING PRINCIPLES**

Team Decision Making is a key strategy used to implement Family-to-Family, an initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Family-to-Family is dedicated to improving outcomes for children in foster care and is based on the following principles:

- Children need families.
- Families need the help of strong, nurturing communities.
- Child welfare agencies and communities are better able to help children and families when working together.