Why is this FPM happening?

Emergency Removal FPMs happen when…
❖ The children cannot safely remain in their home with their parent or current caretaker.
❖ There is imminent risk of your children entering Foster Care.
❖ ACDSS is seeking Court intervention and recommending removal of your children, or the Court has entered a removal order for your children.
❖ A plan needs to be made for where your children can safely live, with the goal of keeping them with family whenever possible and preventing the need for Foster Care.

Before the meeting, plan to…
❖ Think about the people who know and care about your children and family and invite them to attend the meeting with you.
❖ Participate for up to two hours.
❖ Express if there is anything that would help you participate (childcare, transportation, safety, etc.)
❖ Understand the conversation may be emotional and challenging.

How to prepare for your FPM?
❖ Talk about what your family needs to keep your children safe and help them thrive.

At the meeting, plan to…
❖ Express your feelings about your children and family.
❖ Talk about your strengths and what is going well.
❖ Share what worries you about your family.
❖ Talk about what your family needs to keep your children safe, help them thrive, and provide them with a consistent and stable home.
❖ Talk about services that have helped or could help.
❖ Make decisions for your children and family.
What’s an FPM?

❖ A team meeting for your family that includes people who care about your family.

❖ An open and creative way for parents, family, friends, professionals, and DSS to work together to make a plan to keep your children safe and stable.

❖ The meeting is structured and led by a facilitator who is not involved with your case. The facilitator will make sure everyone can participate and the meeting stays focused.

How do FPMs work?

❖ Everyone uses respectful, open, and honest communication that respects the privacy of the family.

❖ The family team will discuss the purpose of the meeting.

❖ The team will talk about your children and family’s strengths to help build the plan.

❖ The team will then discuss the concerns and your family’s needs.

❖ Next, the team will “brainstorm” and suggest ideas to support your family.

❖ Finally, the team will make decisions and create a step-by-step plan to accomplish the goals.

❖ The team tries to reach an agreement on the plan.

❖ Everyone will leave the meeting with a printed copy of the plan.

Why is an FPM important?

Because...

❖ Children do best when they are connected to family.

❖ Family participation improves decision making and outcomes for children.

❖ All families have strengths and are experts on themselves.

❖ Teamwork is the best way to make decisions about child safety, stability, permanency, and well-being.