**Why is this FPM happening?**

Requested FPMs can happen:

- Any time the family or other caretaker, community partner, or ACDSS worker asks for a meeting.
- To create a team to discuss family strengths and needs and develop a plan to work together in the child and family’s best interest.

**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.

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**Date:** __________________________

**Time:** __________________________

**Location:** __________________________

**Contact:** __________________________
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.