

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Family Group Decision Making meeting?

A family meeting is a gathering of family, friends and service providers who meet to discuss the best plan of action for a child.

Who attends the meeting?

The family determines who will be invited. The agency coordinator will work with the family to explore whom to invite.

How long will a meeting take?

The meeting can last 3-5 hours. The time for information and private family time is never limited.

Where is the meeting held?

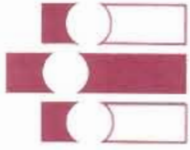
The family determines the best location for the meeting. The agency coordinator will help the family choose a neutral location that is comfortable and safe.

If I decide this is not for me, can I stop the process?

Yes, the process is totally voluntary. You may stop at any time.

How does a family get involved?

A family may request a meeting by contacting Holy Family Social Services directly, or an agency, school, Children, Youth and Family Services or Juvenile Probation can refer them.



Family Group Decision Making is provided in Armstrong County as a collaborative effort between Armstrong County Children, Youth and Family Services, Family Resource Network and Holy Family Social Services.

Glorianna Andriko, MACPC
Family Group Decision Making Coordinator

Cassandra L. Nuzzo
Program Director

Holy Family Social Services
420-422 Third Avenue
Ford City, PA 16226
(724) 763-4181

"The more eyes, hands, and hearts involved with a family, the safer the child."

-Larry Graber

Family Group Decision Making

Helping to Keep Children Safe and Families Together



Provided in Armstrong County as a collaborative effort between Armstrong County Children, Youth and Family Services, Family Resource Network and Holy Family Social Services.

What is Family Group Decision Making?

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) is a voluntary gathering of family, friends and service providers that provides an opportunity for a family to make their own plan for the safety of their children.

The true power to solve the problems that families face lies within the families themselves and within the communities in which they live. Family Group Decision Making is a practice that supports this perspective.

Why should I participate?

- The Family Group Decision Making process can help keep families together.
- This process can help identify resources within the family and community.
- The family is empowered and goals are accomplished.
- Decisions about the family are made by the family.

What is my role in Family Group Decision Making?

Family members

- Meet with the Family Group Decision Making coordinator.
- Make a list of the people you would like to invite.
- Help select a time and a location for the meeting.
- Attend the meeting, share your views and listen openly to others.
- Participate in family private time.

Service Providers

- Meet with the Family Group Decision Making coordinator.
- Be prepared to discuss the family's strengths and identify concerns.
- Be willing to support the family's plan.
- Attend the meeting, share views and listen openly to others.

What happens at a FGDM meeting?

Introduction

Greetings, family traditions, guide lines, and purpose are discussed.

Information Sharing

Everyone is given the opportunity to ask questions and share information.

Private Family Time

All service providers leave and the family develops their own plan aimed at serving the best interest of the child.

Presentation of the Plan

The entire group comes together again and the family presents their plan, which may be strengthened as needed.

What happens after a FGDM meeting?

- The plan is distributed to attendees.
- Those identified in the plan follow through with their commitments.
- All those involved will monitor the plan's progress.
- Follow up meetings, if needed, are scheduled to review progress on the plan and make any needed changes.

**For more information
about the Family
Group Decision Making
program, call Holy
Family Social Services
at (724) 763-4181.**