

A Team Decision Meeting is a crucial tool...

- When protective custody is being considered due to concerns for a child's safety.
- When a change in a child's placement is being considered.

TDMs are scheduled when an immediate decision is needed, usually within 24 hours and prior to custody hearings.

The creative thinking and commitment of those who know the child is critical to making the best decision.

DHS will not discriminate against anyone. This means DHS will help all who qualify. DHS will not deny help to anyone based on age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, political beliefs or disability. You can file a complaint if you think DHS singled you out because of any of these things.

If you have questions or need this document in a different format, please contact your local DHS office.

Your TEAM decision meeting

We appreciate your willingness to participate on short notice and to arrive at the meeting on time.

Date:

Location:

Caseworker:

Telephone:

What is said in the meeting is private.

child welfare TEAM decision meetings



Making decisions for the immediate safety of a child.



What is a TDM?

- A Team Decision Meeting brings together families and others who are connected with the family when there are serious safety risks to a child that could result in an out-of-home placement.
- A TDM is a collaborative process to develop a safety plan that best meets the needs of a child. This is best accomplished when the extended family, neighborhood and community participate.

When should a TDM be scheduled?

When a child's safety is in question and the child may need to be moved from their home into protective custody. A TDM is also held at "critical junctures" when considering placement changes:

- A change in foster homes.
- Returning a child home.
- A change in permanency plan.
- Emancipation for a teen.

Guidelines for an effective TDM meeting

All participants should:

- Contribute to the process, being honest and respectful.
- Have the opportunity to be heard.
- Express what they are willing to do and make commitments.
- Honor the privacy of others.
- Focus on the safety needs of a child.

What happens at a TDM?

A facilitator who is knowledgeable about child protective services, laws and policies guides the meeting. The steps include:

- Introductions and meeting rules.
- History and safety concerns presented by DHS caseworker.
- Identify:
 - Child's needs.
 - Family strengths.
 - Community resources.
- Explore placement options and issues.
- Develop plan for child's immediate safety, including follow-up measures.



Who attends a TDM?

- Parents/family members.
- Family support system.
- DHS caseworker.
- Service providers.
- Community representatives.
- Foster parents, if appropriate.
- Facilitator.

Benefits of a TDM

Children, families and communities benefit from better decisions.

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

Other meetings

There are other types of meetings, as well as follow-up meetings, to assure the plan is working. If the child is removed from home, an Oregon Family Decision Meeting will be scheduled after 30 days from placement, as required by law.