

## What Is Your Role?

### Your Role as a Family Member

- To share how you see the situation.
- To share how you feel the situation can best be resolved.
- To create and agree with your family on a plan that ensures that everyone is safe and cared for.

### Preparing Yourself

- Imagine what the meeting might be like.
- Think about how you might feel.
- Plan what you want to say. If it helps, write it down.
- Consider what you want from the meeting.

*If you have been invited to be a support person, you will help that family member express his or her opinion and feel safe.*

### Your Role as a Service Provider

- To share your understanding of the concerns in the family.
- To note the strengths in the family.
- To be clear about requirements and limits you may have.
- To note any resources that may be useful to the family.

### Your Role as a Resource Person/Speaker

- To use clear language to describe how the problem can affect a family.
- To outline what type of services that are available to the family.

## Your Meeting

Date

Place

Time

Coordinator

## Family Group Decision Making



*Family voices... making choices*



Community Counselling  
Centre of Nipissing

Centre communautaire  
de counselling du Nipissing

361 McIntyre Street East  
North Bay, ON P1B 1C9

P: 705.472.6515

F: 705.472.4582

[www.cccnip.com](http://www.cccnip.com)

*With thanks to the Family Group  
Conferencing Project of Toronto.*



Community Counselling  
Centre of Nipissing

Centre communautaire  
de counselling du Nipissing

[www.cccnip.com](http://www.cccnip.com)



## *What is Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)?*

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) is a process which joins you with relatives and friends, to develop a plan to ensure that your child(ren) are cared for.

## *Why Use FGDM?*

- It includes everyone who is important to your child.
- You are able to author your own plan.
- It ensures the safety of all participants.
- It allows you to help create solutions for your own situation.
- It encourages you to focus on your strengths.
- You can hear the concerns from others.
- It is unique to your situation and culture.

## *How is the Meeting Arranged?*

- After your worker had discussed FGDM with you, the coordinator will contact you to explain what it is all about. She/he will ask you who is in your family and how they can be contacted. The coordinator will also ask whether there are other people who feel like part of the family, and who should be included.
- The coordinator will approach these people and invite them to the meeting.
- The coordinator will prepare each person for the meeting.
- The coordinator will ask you which service providers should attend the meeting.
- Child care and refreshments are provided. Travel arrangements can be made.

## *How Long Does it Take?*

- It takes a few weeks to setup the meeting and to make sure everyone is prepared and included.
- The meeting will go on for as long as necessary until a plan is agreed upon — so set aside the whole day!

## *What Happens in a Family Group Meeting?*

### *Part 1 – Welcome & Information Sharing*

- The coordinator greets and welcomes everyone.
- There is an opening that fits with the family's traditions.
- The coordinator outlines the purpose of the meeting.
- Each person introduces him or herself and shares a hope for the day.
- Guidelines for a respectful discussion are established.
- If needed, a safety plan is outlined.
- The service providers share information about the family.
- The family asks the service providers questions.

### *Part 2 – Private Family Time*

- The family has an indefinite amount of time together without professionals present in the room to consider new ways of helping the children and the family to arrive at a plan.

### *Part 3 – Presentation of the Plan*

- The plan is presented to the coordinator and the family's child welfare worker.
- The details of implementing the plan are discussed and agreed upon.
- A second FGDM meeting is an available option...

*A copy of the plan will be sent to the family within 10 days of the meeting.*

