

When is a Team Decision Making meeting scheduled?

A Team Decision Making Meeting can help make positive decisions when:

- A child has been removed or is at risk of removal from his or her home.
- A child is in out-of-home care and a change in placement is required or requested.
- A child may be returning home.



The commitment and creative thinking of those closest to the child are essential to making the best decisions.

Your Team Decision Making Meeting

We appreciate your willingness to participate on such short notice.

PLEASE ARRIVE 15 MINUTES EARLY

Date: _____

Arrival Time: _____

Meeting Time: _____

Location: _____

You are encouraged to invite anyone you feel will help you and your family.

Talk with your Social Worker if you need assistance with:

- Bus Tickets
- Child Care
- Translation

Social Worker: _____

Telephone: _____

For other special needs or additional information about TDM, please contact your Social Worker.

San Bernardino County

Department of Children's Services



TEAM DECISION MAKING



MAKING DECISIONS FOR THE
SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF
CHILDREN

WHAT IS A TDM MEETING?

- A Team Decision Making (TDM) meeting brings together people who are interested in and care about the family.
- A TDM meeting is held to ensure that the best possible decisions are made regarding the child's safety and placement.
- The TDM meeting focus is on child safety and preserving family and community connections.



WHO MAY ATTEND A TDM MEETING?

- Parents/Family Members/Caregivers
- People who support the family
- Social Workers/Supervisors
- Community Representatives, including Family Advocates
- Service Providers
- Facilitator

GUIDELINES FOR AN EFFECTIVE MEETING

- All participants contribute to the process, being direct, honest and respectful of others.
- Each participant will have the opportunity to be heard.
- Participants make commitments to support the decisions made.

WHAT HAPPENS AT A TDM MEETING?

A child welfare services facilitator guides the meeting through the following:

- Introductions
- Meeting Guidelines
- Identification of:
 - The child's needs
 - The family's strengths and needs
 - Community resources
- Child safety plan
- Placement options

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A TDM MEETING?

Good decisions are made because:

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

TEAM DECISION MAKING PRINCIPLES

Team Decision Making is a key strategy used to implement Family2Family, an initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Family2Family is dedicated to improving outcomes for children in foster care and is based on the following principles:

- Children need families.
- Families need the help of strong, nurturing communities.
- Child welfare agencies and communities are better able to help children and families when working together.