

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Child and Family Team(CFT) Meeting Reminders

A Child and Family Team (CFT) is critically important in the assessment of children and their families' protective capacities. Building a Team of professional and natural supports and bringing it together is necessary not only to help mitigate risk, but also to share responsibility in safety decision making and interventions. It is highly important to include a Team of professional and natural supports in CFT meetings to support child safety and well-being, such as Mental Health Professionals, Public Health Nurses, Parent Partners/Cultural Brokers, relatives and spiritual supports.

Per [Policy Guide 0070-548.01 - Child and Family Teams](#), the CFT process is a solution-focused approach meant to draw on the family's history of protection and ability to solve problems. The information assists families in developing their vision for their future and assists them in gathering a formal and informal support network (team) that will be available to them after termination of formal services.

REMINDERS:

- A meeting between a Children's Social Worker (CSW), a Supervising Children's Social Worker (SCSW), and a parent/s does **not** constitute a Child and Family Team Meeting (CFTM) if no additional professional and natural supports are involved.
- The CFT is a group of individuals identified by the child, youth or NMD and family members as important professionals and others who are invested in the child, youth and family's success.
- Bring together a Child and Family Team (CFT) when there are safety concerns and incorporate the team members into safety interventions. (For example, an unexplained mark or bruise observed on a child; a parent consistently missing drug tests, mental health concerns such as post-partum depression.)
- Safety plans and interventions need to include how CFT supports can be utilized to mitigate identified safety threats and/or worries. Take caution with only making plans with the caregivers and/or parents there are concerns about.
- Children age five and under are especially vulnerable. A CFT is needed when considering removing children as well as when returning children age five and under who have been separated from their parent/s for a significant period of time.
- For children in Out of Home care, CFTMs should be held with the Resource Parent/s and supports to address any safety concerns, reunification and permanency efforts, as well as to support the child's well-being.
- If you encounter a family who is reluctant to team, consult with your Supervisor/Manager and reach out to a Coach Developer or Core Practice Model Coach to brainstorm strategies on ways to engage those who may not yet be ready to make needed changes.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

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