
Child Welfare Programs



Family Team Conference Types

January 13, 2016

I. **Child Safety Conferences (Initial Child Safety & Initial Planning and Safety)**

A collaborative process that brings together all of the parties who have a responsibility and an interest in protecting a child and is designed to produce the best decision concerning a child's safety and placement (when necessary). Triggers for initial and follow-up child safety conferences include:

- The CPS team assesses that safety concerns are serious enough that legal intervention may be necessary to keep a child safe.
- A child was deemed unsafe and immediately removed by the police or the Division of Child Protection.
- On behalf of a newborn in the following circumstances:
 - When a parent has a child who is currently placed with ACS or is released to the care of a non-parent and the mother has given birth to another child.
 - If the parent tests positive for an illegal substance during the third (3rd) trimester of pregnancy or at the time of the child's birth.
 - When there are other indicators that a mother may not be able to care for her child at birth;
- When a fatality of a child has occurred, and there is a surviving sibling(s).
- When a parent or caretaker expresses an interest in voluntarily placing a child.

Note: Transition Meetings will continue to occur 3-5 days following the initial child safety conference in placement cases.

II. **Permanency Conferences**

Through supportive and strength-based family engagement, these conferences focus on child well-being and assessing the progress and barriers to a child attaining a safe and permanent family setting. Triggers include goal changes, service planning review, Family Assessment and Service Plan, permanency planning (reunification, KinGap, adoption, APPLA), placement change and preventing placement disruption.

III. **Family Support Conferences**

Through supportive and strength-based family engagement, these conferences focus on family goals and service needs, enhancing the caretaker's protective capacity, and addressing risk, using a lens of well-being and equity. Triggers include preventive planning and elevated risk.

IV. **Discharge Conferences**

For children approaching trial or final discharge or service termination, these conferences ensure that families are connected to appropriate preventive services and that sufficient progress has been made to enable the safe return of children to their families.

