

WORKER'S PRESENTATION OUTLINE FOR INITIAL TDM MEETING

**Be prepared to take a lead role in the discussion in these stages.

STAGE 1: INTRODUCTION

Introduce yourself and share your title/position, the department you work in, how you are involved in the case, and how long you have known the family.

STAGE 2: IDENTIFYING THE SITUATION**

Goal: To gain everyone's understanding, in succinct terms, of why a TDM meeting has been called and the immediate concerns.

- Explain why we are here and clearly state the safety concerns that rise to the level of considering moving the children from their home.
- Explain what happened specifically that resulted in the need for a TDM meeting.
- Present a summary of the current situation, including where the children currently live and all current safety plans, services, and/or court involvement, and indicate if a separate meeting is being held due to domestic violence.
- Conclude with a clear statement of your commitment to the TDM meeting process.

STAGE 3: ASSESSING THE SITUATION**

Goal: To provide a full, factual, understandable, and specific evaluation of the situation, the safety and risk issues, and the family's supports and strengths. (This stage should not be redundant with Stage 2.)

- Focus on immediate safety and risk concerns.
- Share a succinct presentation of the family's history of child abuse and neglect.
- In collaboration with the rest of the team, identify caregivers' protective capacities and highlight the family's relevant strengths.
- Express concerns and strengths in a behavior-specific way and how they impact the child's safety.
- Refer to assessment tools used in the investigation and explain the primary findings.
- Share any changes in the family situation over time.
- Describe the safety plan (if one is in place) and any problems that have occurred.
- If any of the following are present, explain the circumstances and situation:
 - » Domestic violence
 - » Court orders
 - » Drug or alcohol use
 - » Criminal history of adults involved in the children's life
 - » Mental illness
- Outline the supports and services that have been offered, used, or are in place.
- Bring the voice of the children into the meeting.
- If necessary, provide information on relatives who are available as resources for support and/or potential placement options.

STAGE 4: DEVELOPING IDEAS

- During this stage, you and the group should build on relevant family strengths and supports, as charted.
- The team should focus on three areas: (1) immediate actions needed to provide safety; (2) whether an out-of-home plan and/or court action is needed; and (3) future services and supports needed to reduce risk and provide stability to placement.
- You and others share ideas for services and supports to address immediate safety and risk concerns.
- If necessary, you and others offer ideas for out-of-home care and share information on available relative/kin resources.

STAGE 5: REACHING A DECISION

- The team seeks to recommend the least restrictive and least intrusive plan that will address children's safety and stability needs.
- Help explain why any ideas are rejected.
- If a safety plan is developed and agreed upon, ensure it outlines all agency requirements and limitations, provides a timeline, and explains the role of the safety monitor, if applicable.
- Recommendation/decision should include timely linkages to immediately needed support services and provide contact information for services and staff.

STAGE 6: RECAP AND CLOSE

- Confirm that summary information provided by the facilitator is accurate, clear, and understood by all.
- Ensure the summary is clear about who will do what and by when, and whether an informal follow-up meeting is needed.
- At the end of the meeting, attend to the family's emotional needs, as well as any safety concerns for the non-offending parent in domestic violence situations.