

Youth and Family Service (Logan City) Inc is a community based, not-for-profit organisation that provides innovative and dynamic services to families and young people in Logan City and surrounding areas. Operating from two sites, the organisation provides a range of client focused solutions through six key service areas.

Privacy

Youth and Family Service (Logan City) Inc is committed to protecting your privacy. We understand and appreciate that clients are concerned about their privacy and the confidentiality and security of any information that may be provided to us.


YFS has a Privacy Statement and a Confidentiality Policy. These are available to you on request.

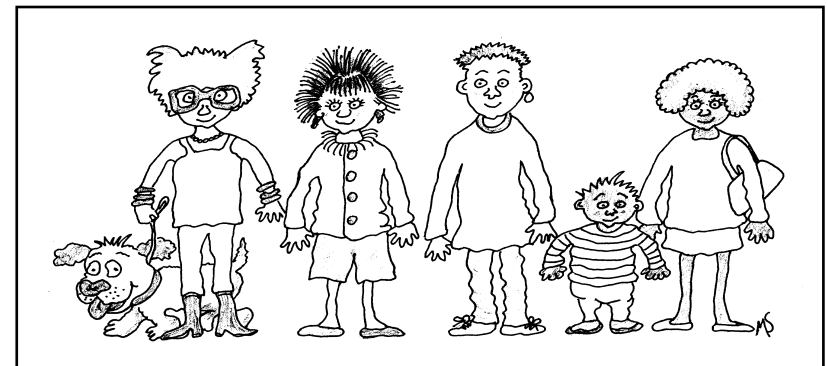


Information for parents, extended families & friends

Family Group Conference Supporting Families to make decisions and to plan for the care of their children

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What is the purpose of a Family Group Conference?

A Family Group Conference is a way for your family and others close to your child to come together to make some decisions and a plan for your child that will:

- Provide your child with a safe place to live.
- Keep your child's best interests in mind.
- Respect the wishes, needs and role of your family in your child's life.
- Keep your child connected with their family, culture and community.

Examples of decisions to be made at a Family Group Conference include:

- What will be done to keep your child safe (emotionally & physically)?
- Where your child will live?
- How family and the community can support the decisions that are made
- What resources are needed to support the family to care for and protect your child?

Who is included in the family?

"Family" is all the people who are important to your child including siblings, parents, extended family and significant others who may or may not be related by birth.

When are Family Group Conferences available?

A referral can be made to a Family Group Conference Facilitator when:

- A child protection investigation has been completed and it has been determined that your child is in need of protection.
- The family agrees there is a need to make decisions and develop a plan of care for your child.

How do I get to a family group conference?

If a family and the Child Safety Officer (CSO) decide to take part in a Family Group Conference, the CSO will make a referral to the Facilitator. The Facilitator organises and runs the family group conference – they are **not** employed by the Department of Child Safety. The facilitator will

- ask you who your family members are and what professionals are involved with your family and child.
- speak with you, your child, your immediate/extended family and professionals.
- contact and prepare everyone who is invited to the conference.
- assist all family members to either attend or have their views heard at the conference.

Your child may have an advocate and family members may have a support person to attend the meeting to help express their views and wishes. If the family has invited you to attend, it is important that you try to be there for them.

What happens at a Family Group Conference?

The Facilitator will set a date and time that suits the people who are to attend. The Facilitator's role is to help your meeting run smoothly and to explain to everybody what will happen. The Family Group Conference follows a process that includes:

Part 1 - "Who are we?" –

- The Facilitator welcomes everyone to the meeting and explains its purpose and process.
- Everyone will introduce themselves to the group and explain their connection to the child and why they decided to come to the meeting.
- The Facilitator will talk about why this meeting is important to the child's future.
- Your family will decide on some 'rules' as to how you would like discussions to happen.

Part 2 - "Why are we here?"

- The CSO will talk about why the Department of Child Safety is involved. The 'bottom lines' about the safety of your child will be made clear.
- Professionals may provide information about your child and their needs.
- Professionals from other services may provide information about community supports available to your family.
- Other people who know your child and family may provide information that will help you in making a plan.
- Your family will be supported to identify the strengths and resources from within your family.

You can ask any questions to help you understand all the information that was presented. Your family has the time you need to discuss what needs to happen to keep your child safe.

Part 3 - "What are we going to do?"

- Your family has time to meet alone to talk and make a plan to provide a safe and happy future for your child.
- Your plan needs to address the identified concerns by considering the resources available within your family and within the community.

Part 4 - Plan presentation and fine-tuning

- After your family agrees on a plan, the plan is discussed with the CSO.
- The CSO will check that your plan will keep your child safe and is in the best interest of your child.
- Everyone receives a copy of a plan and a review date is set, usually in 3 months time.

Part 5 - Finish

"The child's need to maintain family and social contacts and ethnic and cultural identity must be taken into account" and "families have the prime responsibility for the upbringing, protection and development of their children". (Child Protection Act 1999)