



A COMMUNITY PARTNER'S GUIDE TO TDM™ MEETINGS

WHAT IS A TDM MEETING?

TDM stands for Team Decision Making™. TDM meetings:

- Are led by a trained facilitator with child welfare experience;
- Determine what safety measures, services, or other supports are necessary to keep children in their home or to move children to another placement (either out of home or back to the home);
- Seek to make a live decision or recommendation about whether a child should move from their current living arrangement or transition back to their home; and
- Include a variety of people who are supportive to the family.

WHO PARTICIPATES IN TDM MEETINGS?

In addition to the family, child welfare staff, and facilitator, participants may include the following.

Relatives	Attorneys	Therapists
Friends	GALs	Youth (11 years and older)
Church members	Foster parents	Service providers
School staff	Relative caregivers	Community representatives

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Child welfare agencies will invite community representatives to TDM meetings, especially those involving possible separation of a child from their birth family. To prepare for this, commit to having someone from your agency available to attend TDM meetings to share about your agency's services or programs. The local TDM team will orient your agency's representatives to the TDM process, and the TDM meeting facilitator will get the family's permission for your involvement before the meeting starts.

DETAILS FOR THE UPCOMING TDM MEETING

TDM Meeting Type: Initial (Considered or Emergency Separation) Placement Stability
 Unsupervised Parenting Time Return Home

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Worker Contact Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF TDM MEETINGS?

There are several different types of TDM meetings. The goal is for all TDM meetings to be held before decisions are made about children moving from their home or placement. In some emergencies, this timing may not be possible; in those cases, the goal is to hold a meeting by the next day. Below is a brief overview of each type of TDM meeting.

Initial (Considered or Emergency Separation)

This TDM meeting is for deciding if children can remain safely in their home or need to move to an alternative setting because of safety threats. This includes voluntary out-of-home arrangements.

Placement Stability

This TDM meeting is for deciding whether children can and should remain in their current placement setting or if a new placement is needed. Since most moves are traumatic to children, the goal of this TDM meeting is usually to preserve the current situation (if concerns can be reduced and safety and well-being ensured).

Unsupervised Parenting Time

This is the first step toward reunification. This TDM meeting is for developing a safety plan and parenting time plan to ensure gradual steps occur toward returning children home.

Return Home

This is the second step toward reunification. This TDM meeting is for developing a plan to return home, including a safety plan that builds supports, reduces potential barriers, and increases the possibility of long-term success.



A TDM MEETING OFTEN INCLUDES THREE TYPES OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Support persons: Anyone invited by the family.
- Service providers: Formal or informal providers presently or potentially working with the family.
- Community representatives: Persons not currently working with the family but whom the family could likely relate to as a member of their community, however they define that.

Community representatives may assume one or more of the following roles in the TDM meeting.

- Serve as a natural ally and/or potential advocate for the family.
- Represent the family's community based on shared neighborhood, faith, ethnicity, or other identified connections.
- Share an awareness of resources that may support the family.
- Make the family feel comfortable however they can.
- Help participants understand the family's community, especially its strengths.
- Assist the family in understanding the agency's concerns in relation to safety and risk.
- Fully participate in the meeting and share ideas for ensuring the children's safety while supporting the family.

LEARN MORE

For more information, please contact Tracie Kress at MDHHS, kresst@michigan.gov.

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