

WHO ARE WE?

We are just like you—young people who are in foster care or who have recently left foster care. We know how overwhelming it can be, and we decided to develop this brochure to give you information about your rights while in care.

Please visit our website, www.tnfosteryouth.org, for more detailed and up to date information or if you would like to get involved with the Tennessee Youth Advisory Council or another youth council in your area. Remember, you are not alone. You can achieve your goals and dreams.



www.fosteringsuccess.org



Tennessee Youth Advisory Council
1221 16th Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee 37212
(615) 327-4455
Fax: (615) 329-1444
www.tnfosteryouth.org

Tennessee Youth Advisory Council | 1221 16th Avenue South | Nashville, Tennessee 37212
(615) 327-4455 | Fax: (615) 329-1444 | www.tnfosteryouth.org



WHO'S ON MY TEAM?

Making your child and family team work for you.
Information for foster youth, by foster youth.



WHAT IS A CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM?

A Child & Family Team is a group of people that can help you and your family deal with important issues affecting you. They can help you make your plans and meet your goals.

WHAT IS A CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM MEETING?

A Child & Family Team Meeting is often called a “CFTM.” This meeting will bring together people to talk about your plans and any problems you are having. This is a time for your team to plan how to help you. It’s a chance for you to speak up about your goals and needs.

WHO IS ON MY CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM?

You can, and should, invite people who are important in your life, including:

- › Family members including grandparents, aunts, uncles, or others
- › Minister or faith partner
- › Teachers or Coaches
- › Neighbors
- › Guardian Ad Litem
- › Other adults who care about you
- › Friends, even if they are under 18

Facilitator: An outside leader, called a facilitator, will come to your meeting. They are not there to take sides. They are there to help people talk to each other. Their job is to keep the meeting on track towards a good plan that will work.

Case Manager: Your case manager should always be at your meeting.

CAN I ASK FOR A MEETING?

Yes. You or any member of your team can call a meeting. Just ask your case manager to set it up. DCS will also call regular meetings about your permanency plan.

What if someone important to me can't make it to the meeting?

Ask your case manager to change the meeting to another date or time.

WHEN SHOULD I ASK FOR A MEETING?

Whenever an important issue comes up, such as:

- › Visits with family and brothers or sisters
- › Contact with people who are important to you
- › School and help with school work
- › Your independent living plans, for when you leave foster care
- › Getting in touch with your case manager or Guardian Ad Litem
- › Problems in your current home
- › Plans from your last meeting aren't working
- › Goals that you do not agree with
- › Financial needs to help you succeed
- › Health problems
- › Phone use
- › Other things you need help with

Let your Case Manager know if you would like to have a Child & Family Team Meeting.

WHAT SHOULD I HAVE BY THE END OF THE MEETING?

- › Results of meeting. What did the team decide?
- › A clear plan to help you meet your goals
- › A written copy of the plan. Everyone should get one
- › Everyone on the team should know what they are supposed to do next.

If progress is not being made on your plan or if your goals change, you should request a new CFTM to make a new plan. Be sure to keep copies of all of your records.

WHO'S ON MY CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM?
