

Family Group Conference Fact Sheet

What is a Family Group Conference?

A Family Group Conference is a way in which the local authority involve a child's family / friends in any assessment of decision making process.

The parents will provide details of all those they wish to attend such a conference to the local authority. Those who can attend can be either family or friends that are involved in the child(ren)'s life.

An independent co-ordinator will arrange such a meeting and invite all those family members put forward to attend.

Those who attend the conference will be the independent co-ordinator, family members and friends, parents and the social worker.

The social worker will commence the conference by explaining the concerns to all those in attendance. The social worker will sometimes then leave the room whilst discussions take place between the family.

The independent co-ordinator will facilitate discussions between the family as to how best to care for the child. The family and parents will come up with a plan as to how the child's needs can be best met and how the family can assist to protect the child from any future harm. This can include support in many different ways such as financial support, emotional support, respite care, assisting with contact handovers, assisting with school pick up and drop off, etc.

The social worker will then consider the plan and rate its ability to protect the child's welfare and/or provide support to the child/parent.

Disclaimer: The material contained in this fact sheet is for general guidance only. It is specific to the law of England and Wales, and represents a brief outline of the law current as at the date of the fact sheet. It is not intended to constitute, or to be a substitute for, legal advice specific to your case.

Information up to date as at 10/03/2023



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