

What happens at a Family Group Conference?

Step 1: Information Process

- ✓ The Family Group Conference Coordinator introduces everyone.
- ✓ The summary of facts (what the Police say happened) is presented.
- ✓ The young person admits or denies the charge. If it is denied, the conference will be adjourned and the matter given back to the Police, Probation or the referring agency to decide what to do.

Step 2: Discussion

- ✓ Everyone is encouraged to discuss the offense(s), the impact of the offending on others, and what needs to be done to hold the young person accountable and to put the matter right.
- ✓ The participants are given the chance to speak and to say what action s/he believes the young person should carry out to put matters right.
- ✓ Then the young person and their family meet alone to come up with a realistic and achievable plan which takes into account the interests of the victim and community.

Step 3: Decision, Recommendations, Plans

- ✓ The family group reports back to the whole conference on what it thinks should happen
- ✓ The conference tries to reach agreement on a plan of action that suits everybody. If agreement can't be reached, the matter will be sent back to the referring agency to decide how to settle the matter.

What happens if you disagree with the plan?

- ✓ If a participant is not happy with the plan, say so. Express your concerns during the conference.
- ✓ Participants have a right to disagree. If you do disagree it would be helpful to explain why.
- ✓ Helpful input will be considered and included in the plan if there is group agreement on it.

Do you get a copy of the plan?

Yes. The Coordinator will send you a copy as soon as it is ready (usually within 7 days).

Can the plan be changed?

The agreed plan is legally binding and it cannot be changed unless the FGC is reconvened. The plan will be reviewed by the Coordinator and changed based on input from the second FGC and group agreement.

What happens if the plan isn't followed through by the young person?

- ✓ If you know that the young person has not completed the tasks listed in the plan, you should inform the Coordinator as soon as possible.
- ✓ The referring agency and all FGC participants will be immediately advised.
- ✓ The FGC may be reconvened with the victim or the matter may be sent back to the referring agency to settle things.

Is the victim advised when the youth has completed the plan?

Yes. All key FGC participants are notified when the plan has been completed.