How to prepare for the FGC:

- Imagine what the meeting might be like.
- Think about how you might feel.
- Plan what you want to say and if it helps, write it down.
- Reflect on how you may affect others, and how they might feel.
- Consider what you want from the meeting.
- Help the family member to express their opinion and to feel safe, if you have been invited to be someone’s support person.

What to expect from the Service Provider:

- Will identify the strengths in the family.
- Will share their concerns with the family.
- Will be clear about any bottom lines they have for the family.
- Will mention any resources that may be useful to the family.

The role of a resource person / speaker is to:

- Use clear language to describe how the problem can affect a family and its members.
- Outline what other families with this type of problem have used and what might be available to this family.
What is a Family Group Conference (FGC)?

Family group conferencing brings your family members, friends, and others who care about you and your child(ren) together to plan for the safety and well-being of your child(ren).

Who is in the family?

Your family is made up of your relatives, friends, and anyone who feels like family to you.

Why use FGC?

- It gives everyone the opportunity to discuss the safety and well-being of your child(ren).
- You know your child(ren) and other family members best.
- It helps you consider the resources available within and outside your family, and how best to utilize them.
- The open dialogue gives you the opportunity to understand the opinions of professionals and other family members.

How is the meeting arranged?

- You can make a request for a FGC through your CAS case worker. Your CAS case worker then contacts the Coordinator to arrange a meeting with you.
- The Coordinator will explain the Conference process, ask you who belongs to your family, what other people you feel are part of the family, and how they can be contacted.
- The Coordinator will approach these people, and invite them to and ask them who else should attend.
- The Coordinator will also ask you which service providers should attend the meeting, and may also suggest speakers who could bring useful information.
- Child care, refreshments, and a good meal will be provided, as well as travel arrangements.

How long does it take?

The meeting lasts until at least one plan of care has been presented by the family. Please set aside the day for the conference.

What happens in a FGC?

Welcome and Information

- The Coordinator greets and welcomes everyone, and opens the meeting as per your family's traditions.
- The purpose of the meeting is outlined and everyone introduces themselves, and shares a hope for the day.
- Guidelines for respectful discussion are outlined.
- Safety plans are outlined, if needed.
- Service providers share information about the strengths and worries about the family.
- Speakers share specific information about issues and suggest services that could be available.

Family Private Time

- The family group has time to meet alone to consider new ways to help the child and family.
- A plan is agreed upon within the family group private time.

Review of Plan

- The plan you and your family develop is presented to the CAS case worker and supervisor.
- The details of putting the plan into place are discussed and accepted.
- A time to meet again to review progress may be set.
- A copy of the plan will be sent to you within 10 days of the meeting.

What you can expect?

- To share your view of the situation with the family.
- To share opinion on how best to deal with the situation.
- To work together as a family to present a plan, or plans which ensures the safety and care of everyone in the family.