

## What are the Benefits of Family Team Meetings?

For those who participate in family team meetings, benefits include:

- Children will live in a safer environment with support from their families and communities.
- Families become more unified, involved in decision making, and are better informed about how best to care for their children.
- Communities benefit when children are in safe and supportive homes.



## Your Family Team Meeting

Date:

Time:

Location: Cornerstone Square  
402 Second St SE  
Canton, Ohio 44702

## Stark County Job & Family Services

### Human Services Division

221 3rd Street S.E.

Canton, OH 44702

*Cash, Food, Medical Assistance*

*Applications & Customer Service:*

1.844.640.OHIO (6446)

*Child Care:* 330.452.4661

### Children Services Division

402 2nd Street S.E.

Canton, OH 44702

*Child Abuse/Neglect Report Line:*

330.455.KIDS

*Foster/Adopt:*

330.451.8789

### Child Support Division

221 3rd Street S.E.

Canton, OH 44702

*Customer Service:* 330.451.8930

*Payment information:*

[jfs.ohio.gov/ocs](http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocs)

### SCJFS Executive Offices

221 3rd Street S.E.

Canton, OH 44702

330.452.4661



[starkjfs.org](http://starkjfs.org)



revised  
08/19



## Family Team Meetings

Bringing Everyone Together

## Children Services Division



Stark County  
Job & Family Services

## What are Family Team Meetings?

Family Team Meetings, (FTM) involve the family, your support system, service providers, the caseworker and the caseworker's supervisor. Because your family is the focus of the meeting, Children Services wants you to feel comfortable throughout the meeting. You are encouraged to invite family members, close friends, neighbors, church members, or any other individuals you consider part of your support system. Foster parents and volunteers from the court, such as Guardians Ad Litem (GALs) may also be present at the meeting.

At the Family Team Meeting, Children Services staff will meet with you to learn more about your family, your strengths, the concerns, and how we can work with you to meet the goals of your family. All the participants will work together to develop a written plan and you will be provided with a copy.

Additional meetings will be scheduled to review your case plan progress. These meetings occur at least every 90-days and each will be conducted by a Family Team Meeting facilitator.

Children Services understands that your family may already be involved with community resources, or that involvement with community resources may benefit your family. Therefore, Children Services also invites individuals from appropriate community resources to the meeting. These individuals may provide updates on your progress if you are receiving their services; they may provide information about their services and how they can help support your family.

## Why do Family Team Meetings work?

Family Team meetings work because they:

- *focus on the care, protection and permanency of children;*
- *give all participants information about the agency and court process;*
- *allow for shared decision making and shared responsibility between the family and the agency;*
- *report and value the culture of family and focus on building upon family strengths to help solve family issues;*
- *gather ideas and information from various sources to develop an action plan to meet the needs of your family, and*
- *hold participants accountable for plan follow-through.*



## What do you need to do as a Family Team Meeting member?

As a Family Team member you are asked to:

- *feel comfortable suggesting solutions—your involvement matters;*
- *participate in the case planning process which includes safety, stability and permanency for your child(ren);*
- *help determine and/or identify*
- *creative alternatives for your family;*
- *are open to sharing and listening to concerns others may have, and that you ask questions;*
- *are open and honest in addressing problems your family faces such as domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental health issues;*
- *attend all meetings as scheduled and also communicate what you need in order to attend (child care, transportation, etc.), and*
- *contact your worker or FTM facilitator as soon as possible should something change in your family situation that makes it necessary to re-schedule a meeting to best accommodate your schedule.*