

72 Hour Pre-Placement Conference, Case Practice Guide, pages 14-15

The 72-hour conference occurs either prior to placement, or no later than 72 hours after a child enters care. The [Family Team Meeting Prep](#) should begin in conjunction with this conference, to prepare for the initial FTM to be held within the first 30 days of placement. Information regarding school progress to assist with decision making concerning school stability, and whether it is in the child's best interest to remain in his or her current school should be gathered at this time.

Participants

Parents, caseworker, supervisor, casework supervisor, **resource worker and/or resource supervisor** and other interested parties.

Purpose

- Begin the process of getting to know the family. Listen to their story and explore what relative resources and informal supports they may have. Ask open ended questions that offer the chance to share important information. Begin to gather information regarding the parents' strengths and needs. Discuss the child's need for stability and permanency, as well as timeframes.
- Read available information about the family, including family history on both parents and child specific information, as well as available information from existing educational, medical and mental health records prior to the conference.
- Begin completion of the Structured Decision Making (SDM) tools as part of the assessment process

Specific to the 72 Hour Conference

- All parties are to meet to discuss the need for safety and how the situation will need to change for the child to return home
- Review efforts and services provided to prevent placement
- Discuss the impact of placement upon the family and begin a discussion with parents and any potential caregivers regarding child's need for permanency within 12 months (explore relatives, including those that reside out of state or out of country). Send out the 5-58 Thirty Day Notification to Relative of child's OOH placement
- Discuss any immediate needs and determine if there are emotional, behavioral or cognitive protective capacities that offer opportunities for creating change to expedite reunification
- Discussion of concurrent planning with families, and the need to have both plans progressing simultaneously
- Document the conference

Practice Considerations Within 5 Days of Placement / Requirements for the 72 hr. Conference Case Practice Guide, page 16

- Explain to child what is happening and why, as appropriate to the child's age and developmental level, in the interest of full disclosure

- Complete pre-placement physical and obtain report
- Complete the mental health screening tool. Provide to Medical Unit. Share any available information regarding health or mental health concerns
- Provide placement kit to Caregiver: foster parent ID letter, Medicaid Card, clothing check, medical information, Children's Bill of Rights
- Ensure that Child Health Unit has the necessary information to refer for CHEC / CME exam; School Stability - Best Interest Determination
- Arrange pre-school, child care and school transfers, if necessary, or interim transportation
- Obtain information on all relatives, including fathers and their extended families. (CP&P 26-82)
- Determine if child falls under the jurisdiction of the Indian Child Welfare Act, or may have international family connections
- See parent within 5 days of placement, complete full disclosure check list (CP&P 26-90), and share parent handbook
- Begin preparation for the Family Team Meeting – listen to the family's story, identify formal and informal supports that may need to be part of the team, and focus on the family's strengths, protective capacities and needs
- Complete resource family application. Seek a resource family using First Placement-Best Placement model and refer to Placing Children with Kinship Caregiver Policy/Presumptive
- Determine what placement plans are least restrictive for the child
- Complete resource family application
- *** Required for 72 hour conference. Identify services that are needed for family's immediate needs to work towards reunification**
- **Begin case planning and linkage to services.**
- *** Required for 72 hour conference. Arrange and conduct 5 day parent/child visit and develop visitation plan. Observe family interaction during visit. Identify or confirm date/location for FTM, if arranged**
- *** Required for 72 hour conference. Complete 5-day MVR – Conduct safety assessment and discuss child's adjustment to placement. Assess resource parent strengths and needs. Begin life book conversation and discuss full disclosure elements appropriate to the child's situation**
- CPRB - Notice Of Placement. Legal - Order to Show Cause - Note any non-negotiables for case planning
- Obtain a signed copy of the Children's Bill of rights.