

## WHAT IS FAMILY CENTERED ENGAGEMENT (FCE)?

- Facilitated team process that includes participation from parents, extended family, children, service providers, Human Service Zone and/or Juvenile Court to make critical decisions regarding the removal of children from their homes to achieve the least restrictive and safest placements that are in the best interest of the children.
- Involves the family immediately when making decisions regarding a child's safety and well-being.
- Brings together others who are joined with the family to help make decisions about the child's safety and well-being.
- Is led by a trained neutral facilitator from The Village Family Service Center who guides participants through the meeting process.

## FCE CAN OCCUR WHEN:

- Children are at risk of removal.
- Children have experienced an emergency removal.
- Dual Status Youth

## FAMILY CENTERED ENGAGEMENT IS AVAILABLE ACROSS THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA.

**THE PROCESS HELPED ME TO KNOW THAT**  
*I have support*

The purpose and goal of an **FCE** meeting is to make a critical decision regarding child safety and protection through achieving the least restrictive and safest placement for the child.

**For more information, visit [TheVillageFamily.org/FCE](http://TheVillageFamily.org/FCE)**

The Village Family Service Center's mission is to strengthen individuals we serve through regional community behavioral health services. This includes mental health counseling, in-home family therapy, addiction treatment, mentoring, financial counseling, pregnancy counseling, adoption services and more.

**[www.TheVillageFamily.org](http://www.TheVillageFamily.org)  
800.627.8220**



# TO DEVELOP A PLAN THAT BEST HELPS ACHIEVE *success*

## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT FCE:

- FCE is a service provided by The Village Family Service Center for Human Service Zones and Juvenile Court in partnership with the North Dakota Department of Human Services.
- FCE meetings are an engagement strategy designed to create a participatory and inclusive process that brings together those with relationships to the children and service providers to improve child welfare decision-making outcomes for eligible children.
- The meeting will begin promptly at the scheduled start time.
- Meetings last up to 2 hours.
- Participants receive a copy of the plan developed at the FCE meeting.

## WHO MAY ATTEND AN FCE MEETING?

- Parents/Guardians
- Family
- Children (as appropriate)
- Family Friends
- Referring Worker (Human Service Zone/ Juvenile Court)
- Service Providers
- Guardian ad Litem
- Community Members
- Other Key People as Identified



## WHAT HAPPENS AT AN FCE MEETING?

The facilitator guides participants through the following stages:

### Opening

- Introductions
- Sign-in
- Meeting guidelines
- Purpose/Goal

### Discussion

- Concerns and Risks
- Strengths and Supports
- Ideas
- Non-negotiables

### Creating a Plan

- Private family time to develop an action plan

### Review the Plan

- Plan presentation and clarification
- Plan acceptance
- Satisfaction survey

## PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- All information shared in an FCE meeting is considered confidential and is to be treated with respect.
- Information discussed may be considered as part of the child protection services assessment, disclosed in court proceedings, or used for case planning purposes.

*Note: Any information having to do with the concerns about the safety and welfare of children is reportable by law.*



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FCE HAD A *positive* ATMOSPHERE AND MADE ME FEEL WELCOME.