

Family Partnership Meetings (FPMs) are based on the belief that:

- **You** are the expert on **your family**.
- Families deserve dignity, respect, and a voice in decision-making.
- Families are capable of making decisions for **themselves**.
- FPMs **support** safety, permanency, and stability for children



YOUR FAMILY'S MEETING DETAILS

Date:	
Time:	
Location:	
Worker:	
Worker's Contact Information:	Email: Phone:

Together, we can create a plan that reflects your family's strengths and needs, and keeps your child safe, supported, and connected.



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

FAMILY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Preparing Families for Family Driven Decision Making



dss.virginia.gov



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

The Family Partnership Meeting (FPM) is a strengths-based, family driven process led by trained facilitators that aim to empower parents, caregivers, and youth. The trained facilitator must be neutral and have no decision-making power. The family services specialist (FSS) or their supervisor should not facilitate. This meeting provides a safe environment for the family to make decisions with support from the Local Department of Social Services.



When Should FPMs Occur?

- **Any time** a child is at **"high"** or **"very high"** risk of out of home placement
- **Prior to** a child's removal from their family
- **Prior to** a change of goal (children in foster care) or prior to foster care service plans being submitted to the courts
- **When requested** by the family or agency

How to Prepare for Your FPM

- **Talk with your Family Services Specialist (FSS).** The FSS or the FPM Facilitator will help you prepare for your families meeting.
- **Think about your goals** for your child(ren) and family
- List your family's strengths and needs
- **Share** your ideas, concerns, and hopes
- **Decide who to invite:** bring people who know your family and can support you



It can be helpful to write down your ideas, concerns, strengths, and hopes



Families should be informed of all individuals who will be attending their FPM

Who Should Attend?

You decide who you want at the table. People who may attend include:

- You, your child(ren), and other family members
- Friends, neighbors, or others who support you
- Teachers, coaches, pastors, or youth leaders
- Family Services Workers, supervisors, service providers
- Legal advocates like Guardian ad Litem or Court Appointed Special Advocate

What Happens in a FPM?

- A trained facilitator facilitates the meeting and ensures that all voices are heard.
- Parents and the FSS share the purpose of the meeting
- Participants identify your family's strengths, needs, and supports.
- Everyone shares ideas and suggestions for keeping the child safe and supporting the family.
- Participants use those ideas to develop an action plan the whole team supports.



Remember to ask for a copy of the meeting notes after the meeting