

What is Family Centered Engagement (FCE)?

- Facilitated team process that includes participation from parents, extended family, children, service providers, child welfare staff and/or juvenile court staff 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 are not in care, are at risk of removal, and are currently involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

The goal of **FCE** is to reduce the number of children entering foster care and increase the number of children remaining safely in their own homes or being placed with relatives.



Family Centered Engagement is available in the following North Dakota counties:

Barnes • Stutsman
701-551-2514

Benson • Ramsey • Towner
701-662-6776

**Burleigh • McLean • Mercer
Oliver • Sheridan**
701-255-1165

Grand Forks • Walsh
701-746-4584

Ward
701-852-3328

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
800.627.8220



The Village Family Service Center FAMILY CENTERED ENGAGEMENT



Things to know about FCE:

- FCE is a service provided by The Village Family Service Center for county social services and juvenile court in partnership with the North Dakota Department of Human Services.
- The goal of FCE is to reduce the number of children entering foster care and increase the number of children remaining safely in their own homes and for those children who are removed, increase the number placed with relatives/kin.
- FCE is a facilitated team process with the purpose of making 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.
- Meetings occur within 96 hours of an emergency removal of a child from the home.
- The meeting will begin promptly at the scheduled start time.
- Meetings last 1½ to 2 hours.
- Participants receive a copy of the plan before leaving.

Who may attend an FCE meeting?

- Parents, guardians, and family
- Extended family
- Children (as appropriate)
- Family friends
- Referring worker (County Social Worker/Juvenile Court Worker)
- Service providers
- Guardian ad Litem
- Community members and resources
- Other key people as identified



What happens at an FCE meeting?

The facilitator guides participants through the following stages:

Opening

- Introductions and welcome
- Sign-in
- Meeting guidelines
- Identify situation – Why are we here?
- Purpose

Discussion

- Strengths and resources
- Safety, needs, and concerns
- Ideas
- Non-negotiables

Creating a Plan

- Private family time to develop an action plan

Wrap up

- Plan presentation and plan clarification
- Plan acceptance
- Satisfaction survey

FCE guidelines

- The focus is on the needs and safety of the child.
- All participants should contribute to the process with honesty and respect.
- Each participant will have the opportunity to speak and be heard.
- Participants need to express what they are willing to do and make commitments.

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.