

# Multidisciplinary Team Meetings

Guidelines & Considerations



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# MDT Goals

1. Secure a child's safety in the least restrictive and intrusive placement
2. Minimize the trauma associated with family separation and help the child to maintain meaningful connections with family members and others who are important to them
3. Provide input into the proposed placement decision made by the CBC Lead Agency and the proposed services to support the child
4. Provide input into the decision to preserve or maintain the placement, including necessary placement preservation strategies
5. Contribute to an ongoing assessment of the child and the family's strengths and needs
6. Ensure that plans are monitored for progress and are revised or updated as circumstances change and
7. Ensure that the child and family always remain the primary focus of each MDT



# Holding MDT Meetings

- An MDT staffing must be held when an important decision is required to be made about a child's life, including:
  1. Initial placement decisions for a child who is placed in out-of-home care
  2. Changes in physical custody after the child is placed in out-of-home care by a court
  3. Changes in a child's education and childcare/early childhood
  4. Placement decisions which involve sibling groups and
  5. Reinstatement of Parental Rights.
- An MDT staffing does not include:
  1. An intervention through an adoption entity pursuant to s. 63.082(6),
  2. When a child is temporarily moved for respite care,
  3. When a child under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) pursuant to 25 U.S.C. §1901 et seq., is transferred to their Tribe for ongoing care and supervision





# Supporting Documentation

Medical  
Records

Mental Health  
Records

Educational  
Records

Psychotropic  
Medication  
Records

Child  
Placement  
Agreement

Supporting documentation not available in the child welfare information system at the time of the initial referral must be submitted no later than two (2) business days prior to the scheduled MDT staffing.

When an initial removal occurs, the child protective investigator (CPI) shall make efforts to provide supporting documentation outlined in the Comprehensive Placement Assessment when available



# Facilitator Qualifications

- The MDT staffing shall be conducted by a **trained facilitator** who has obtained the following qualifications:
  1. Department approved adoption competency training;
  2. Mediator or conflict resolution training;
  3. Trauma informed care training;
  4. Motivational interviewing; and
  5. Program service delivery in Economic Self-Sufficiency and Substance Abuse Mental Health training.



# The Role of The Facilitator

- ❑ The facilitator is responsible for coordinating and facilitating MDT meetings in person or remotely.
- ❑ Schedules timely MDT staffings based on the complexity of the case
- ❑ Respond to all appropriate requests within 2 business days from receipt of the referral
- ❑ Invites all required participants
- ❑ Provides participants who are permitted under Chapter 39, with supporting documentation no later than one (1) business day prior to the MDT staffing;
- ❑ Informs parents that their confidential case information will be discussed with any participants invited to the staffing





# The Role of The Facilitator

- ❑ Attempts to resolves disagreements amongst the participants
- ❑ Ensures that the child and family remain the primary focus
- ❑ Ensures the participants are using the strengths within the family to determine and establish goals
- ❑ Ensures that decisions are in the child's best interest
- ❑ Develops and submits written reports to the court detailing the team's decision
- ❑ Documents FSFN with staffing information





# Who Must Be Invited

## Child

Unless not of an age or capacity to participate

## Caregiver/Family

And other individuals important to the child

## Parent

Unless there is a no contact order, alleged sexual abuse, subject to TPR

## Case Manager

Or their supervisor

## DCF/CBC

When directly involved in the goal

## DJJ

When the child is involved

## Indian Tribe/ Alaskan Native

When the child is not transferred to their Tribe for care and supervision







# Best Interest Factors

(s. 39.01375, F.S.)

- The child's age.
- The impact on physical, mental and emotional health based on remaining or moving.
- The stability and longevity of the child's current placement.
- The established bonded relationship between the child and the current or proposed caregiver.
- The reasonable preference of the child, if the child is of sufficient age and capacity to express a preference.
- The recommendation of the child's current caregiver, if applicable.
- The recommendation of the child's Guardian ad Litem, if one has been appointed.



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# Best Interest Factors

- The child's relationship with a sibling and if the change of custody or placement will separate or reunite siblings.
- The likelihood of the child attaining permanency in the current or proposed placement.
- The likelihood that the child will be required to change schools or childcare placement, the impact of such change on the child, and the parties' recommendations as to the timing of the change, including an education transition plan required under s. 39.4023.
- The child's receipt of medical, behavioral health, dental, or other treatment services in the current placement; the availability of such services and the degree to which they meet the child's needs; and whether the child will be able to continue to receive services from the same providers and the relative importance of such continuity of care.





# Best Interest Factors

- The allegations of any abuse, abandonment, or neglect, including sexual abuse and human trafficking history, which caused the child to be placed in out-of-home care, and any history of additional allegations of abuse, abandonment, or neglect.
- The likely impact on activities that are important to the child and the ability of the child to continue such activities in the proposed placement.
- The likely impact on the child's access to education, Medicaid, and independent living benefits if moved to the proposed placement.
- Any other relevant factor.





# Additional Considerations

- Factors outlined in the Comprehensive Placement Assessment
- Caregiver notifications outlined in s. 39.522(3), F.S.
- When a change in placement may result in the separation of siblings, the factors outlined in *Sibling Separations* must be addressed.
- Placement changes that involve the reinstatement of parental rights must adhere to the requirements outlined in *Reinstatement of Parental Rights*.
- Decisions to change placement must address the additional factors outlined in *Placement Transitions* or schedule another staffing to address the factors.
- Decisions that result in an education change must address the factors outlined in *Educational K-12 Transitions* or schedule another staffing to address the factors.

# MDT Staffing Outcome

Unanimous Consensus vs No Consensus





# Decision Making

- All members of the MDT staffing are required to participate in the decision-making process.
- Each participating individual must provide reasons that support their decision.





# Unanimous Consensus



- If the participants reach a unanimous decision, it becomes the official position.
- Such a decision is binding upon all department and CBC lead agency participants, who are obligated to support it.





# No Consensus

- When a unanimous consensus cannot be reached:
  - The facilitator must provide notification to CLS no later than 24 hours following the staffing
  - CLS shall file the written notification within 48 hours after the conclusion of the staffing pursuant to s. 39.4022(6)(d)2
  - The facilitator must submit the MDT staffing packet, to include any assessment tools, supporting documents, MDT staffing recommendations, and written report within 2 business days of the conclusion of the MDT staffing to the Department representative.







# No Consensus

- When a unanimous consensus cannot be reached:
  - The Department representative will review and provide the written report containing the final decision to the facilitator, CLS, and CBC within one (1) business day from receipt of the packet, and no later than four (4) business days of the conclusion of the MDT staffing.
  - The Department representative must follow all requirements under 65C-16.005, F.A.C., when reviewing and providing a final decision for placement that is in accordance with determining the best interest of the child during an AARC.
  - The Department Representative may request additional information to support the final decision. The facilitator shall gather the additional information and submit to the Department representative. The Department representative shall provide a final decision and written report to the facilitator, CLS, and CBC within four (4) business days of the conclusion of the MDT staffing.





# No Consensus

- When a unanimous consensus cannot be reached:
  - CLS shall file the final report within one (1) business day from receipt from the final report but no later than five (5) business days from the conclusion.
  - The facilitator must schedule a placement transition plan MDT staffing pursuant to s. 39.4023, F.S. within seven (7) business days from the final decision from the Department representative.

# Emergency and Planned Placement



# Definitions

## Change in placement

A change by the Department or the CBC lead agency to the child's physical residential address, regardless of whether such change requires a court order changing the legal custody of the child.

## Emergency

There is an imminent risk to the health or safety of the child, other children, or others in the home or facility if the child remains in the placement.





# Placements

## Multiethnic Placement Act

Requires every placement decision for children in the care or custody of the Department be made without regard to the race, ethnicity, color, or national origin of the child or the adult with whom the child is to be placed

## Comprehensive Placement Assessment

- Tool used to determine the most appropriate level of care and physical placement for the child and contain the documented reasons why the child was not placed in the recommended level of care and physical placement.
- Used to ensure children are not inappropriately referred for a clinical assessment for the purpose of rendering a diagnosis of mental illness or emotional or behavioral disorders, for the purpose of satisfying placement requirements in a clinical licensed clinical setting. The assessment shall not be used to formulate a diagnosis.



# Placement Change

- The current caregiver shall notify the CBC, at a minimum of 45 days in advance, when requesting a change of placement.
- If the court orders reunification prior to an MDT staffing, the child welfare professional must immediately request a Placement Transition MDT staffing and Transition Plan as outlined in Rule 65C-28.024, F.A.C





# Priority of Placement

1

Non-offending parent

2

Relative caregiver

3

Adoptive parent of a  
sibling

4

Fictive kin with close  
relationship

5

Nonrelative caregiver

6

Licensed foster care

7

Group or congregate care

## Placement Factors

Appropriateness of the initial and subsequent placement

When a placement move is within the same level of care

The child's expressed interests and desires related to their placement and how to accommodate them

Placement with siblings

Monetary allowance for children in out-of-home care pursuant to s.409.14515(6), F.S

The approved unified home study when moving a child to a relative or non-relative placement

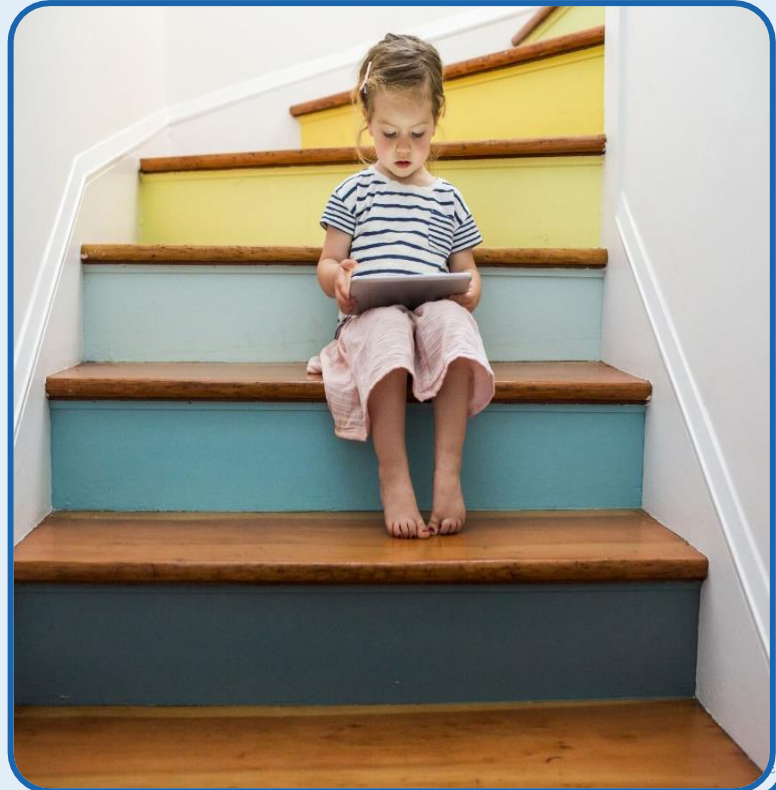






## Children Under 3 Years of Age

There are additional factors that involve a placement move for a child under 3 years of age as outlined in s. 39.4022(6)(c), F.S.





# Children Under 3 Years of Age

## Caregiver's ability & willingness to:

- Accept supports related to early childhood development and services addressing any possible developmental delays
- Address the emotional needs of the child and accept infant mental health supports, if needed
- Help nurture the child during the transition into out-of-home care
- Work with the parent to build or maintain the attachment relationship between parent and child
- Effectively co-parent with the parent and
- Ensure frequent family visits and sibling visits.



# Sibling Separations

Sibling groups must be placed in the same placement whenever possible and if placement together is in the best interest of each child in the sibling group.



## Definition

- Child who shares a birth parent or legal parent with one or more other children, or
- Child who has lived together in a family with one or more other children whom he or she identifies as siblings (foster siblings, step siblings).





# Maintaining Sibling Placements

- If a child enters out-of-home care after their sibling, the MDT shall make reasonable efforts to initially place the child in the sibling's existing placement, provided it would not jeopardize the stability of such placement, and it is in the best interest for each child.
- When a sibling of a child in out-of-home care has been identified an MDT staffing must be scheduled within three (3) business days of notification to consider placement of the siblings together .

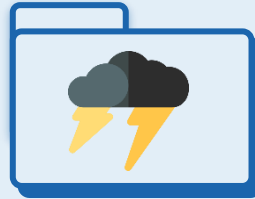


# Factors to Consider



## Emotional Ties

Existing emotional ties  
between and among the  
siblings



## Harm from Separation

Degree of harm each child is  
likely to experience from  
separation



## Evaluation Protocols

Standard protocols for  
evaluating sibling  
placements



# Additional Considerations

1. The presence and quality of current attachment relationships:
  - quality and length of attachment to current and prospective caregivers
  - age of the child when placed with the caregiver, the child's current age, and the ages of any siblings
  - ease with which the child formed an attachment to the current family
  - any indications of attachment difficulty in the child's history
  - number of moves and number of caregivers the child has experienced
2. Potential for the new caregiver to be a primary attachment figure to the sibling group and the willingness and availability to meet each child's emotional needs
3. Quality of existing sibling relationships and potential quality of relationships to be formed
4. Consideration of costs and benefits of disrupting existing emotional attachments
5. Ability to establish and maintain sibling visitation and contact
6. Ability to establish and maintain contact with the sibling and new caregiver



## Follow-Up Reviews

A follow-up review must be held every 6-months to address sibling separation factors.





# Adoption Applicant Review Committee

An MDT staffing must be completed when the final outcome following an AARC committee recommendation requires a placement change. AARC committee members shall consider the best interests of the child as provided for in section 39.01375, F.S. when determining whether to make a recommendation that will result in a placement change.



# Children in a Placement for 9 Months



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# Staffing Factors

- An MDT must be held at least 21 days before the intended fate for the child's change in placement unless there is an emergency.
- The factors identified in s. 39.522(3)(b)1., must have been met:
  1. The caregiver or other household members in the current placement has no verified reports of abuse, abandonment or neglect;
  2. The caregiver or other household member of the current placement has not been named as an alleged perpetrator in a sexual abuse report; and
  3. The caregiver has either:
    - a. Applied to adopt and has a valid and approved adoption home study;
    - b. A valid and approved relative or nonrelative home study; or
    - c. An active foster home license.



# CLS Notification

- The child welfare professional or facilitator will provide CLS with the approved transition plan and recommendation to change the child's placements.
- If the current caregiver did not attend the MDT staffing, the child welfare professional or facilitator will provide a written notice to the current caregiver outlining the MDT decision or the Department representative decision, if applicable.
- The written notice and the date the current caregiver received the notice will be provided to CLS within 72 hours of the Post Disposition Change in Custody MDT staffing.





# Additional Requirements

- The transition of the child to the new placement shall not begin until the 5-day period in which the caregiver may object has expired.
- Upon receipt of a written notice from the caregiver, the Department or CBC may not move the child without a court order.
- The courts must conduct a status hearing within 7 days after receipt of the written notice from the caregiver and provide a written order of its findings.
- If the court orders a change in the child's placement, a transition plan must be developed pursuant to s. 39.4023 or as ordered by the court.



# Reinstatement of Parental Rights

Reinstatement of parental rights is a means of reinstating the legal relationship between the parent and child when a legal decision has previously been rendered to terminate parental rights.

The reinstatement of parental rights provides a pathway to achieve permanency for youth who are at risk of aging out of foster care.





# Requirements

1. Parental rights have been terminated at least 36 months
2. The grounds for termination of parental rights were based on:
  - A voluntary executed written surrender of the child and consented to the entry of an order giving custody of the child to the Department for subsequent adoption or
  - The child was adjudicated dependent, a case plan was filed with the court, and the parent failed to comply with the case plan for 12 months, the parent was in material breach of the case plan, or the child has been in care 12 of the last 22 months, and the parent has not substantially complied with the care plan.
3. The parent has not had their parental rights terminated for any other child
4. The parent has not been a perpetrator involved in any verified reports of abuse, neglect, or abandonment since the termination of parental rights
5. The parent has not been the verified perpetrator of sexual or physical abuse of the child
6. The child is 13 years to 17 years old and
7. The child has not achieved permanency.

**\*If the requirements have been met, the facilitator shall hold the MDT staffing within 30 days of receipt of the request.**

**\*Upon reinstatement of parental rights, a progress update will be completed and filed with the courts every 90 days and at the end of the minimal six months supervision.**

## ○ ○ ○ Additional Supporting Documentation

**Parent  
Input Form**

**Child Input  
Form**

**Progress  
Update**

**Supporting  
Documents**





# Placement Transitions

Transitions must be thoughtfully planned and consider the input of all pertinent team members. The Department and CBC lead agencies shall create and implement an individualized transition plan before each placement change.

If circumstances require the child to be moved, the department or the community-based care lead agency must convene an MDT before the child's placement is changed, or within 72 hours of moving the child in an emergency situation, to develop an appropriate transition plan. A placement change may occur immediately in an emergency situation without convening a multidisciplinary team staffing. However, a multidisciplinary team staffing must be held within 72 hours after the emergency situation arises.



# Placement Transition Notice

Provide notice at least 14 days before the move, or within 72 hours after an emergency situation.

## Child

Unless they're unable to comprehend the notice.

## Parents

Unless excused by the court.

## Out-Of-Home Caregiver

## GAL & Attorney

If they are appointed



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# Educational K-12 and Child Care/Early Education Program Transitions

Educational K-12 and childcare/early education program transition MDT staffings are designed to ensure a child's educational setting is only changed when it is in the best interest of the child.

The Department or the CBC lead agency shall create and implement an individualized transition plan each time a child experiences a school change or if the child cannot remain with a familiar childcare provider or early education program.

An MDT staffing that was convened to consider a placement change may also consider the factors required for educational transitions.



# Documentation



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- Within five (5) of the MDT staffing conclusions, the facilitator shall upload the packet and supporting documentation, as appropriate, in the meeting module associated with the appropriate meeting type in the Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS).
- Supporting documentation obtained directly from CCWIS for inclusion in the MDT packet, does not require an additional upload to CCWIS .



# FSFN Documentation

Type of Meeting	FSFN Meeting Type
Emergency Placements	Placement - Emergency
Change in Placement	Placement - Planned
Reunification	Reunification
Missing Child	Placement – Missing Children
Human Trafficking	Placement – CEC/Labor Trafficking
Placement Transition Plans	Placement - Transition
Sibling Separation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Separated Sibling</li><li>• Separated Sibling Adoptions</li></ul>
Adoption Applicant Review Committee	AARC Staffing
Reinstatement of Parental Rights	Reinstatement of Parental Rights
Educational Transitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• K-12</li><li>• Childcare &amp; Early Childhood</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educational Transitions</li><li>• Child Care/Early Childhood Transitions</li></ul>





# FSFN Updates

## Meetings Module

- The ability to multi-select Meeting Types, as well as Subject Participants and identify if a Meeting is being conducted pursuant to a Multi-Disciplinary Staffing. In addition, FSFN will now provide the ability to associate one or more MDTs to the Judicial Review Worksheet.
- The tab formerly labeled Meeting Participants now displays as Meeting Participants and Outcome on pending and newly created meetings.
- The ability to capture if each Meeting Participant, who attended, was in favor of the Outcome. If not unanimous, ability for the facilitator to indicate if the Department Agrees, and the associated Date.



Meeting Facilitator: RMMZNLIZGL, RICHARD

[Worker](#)

Subject: RHVMYVIT, APRIL

Meeting ID: 990001072

Subject Participant(s):

☐ Cancel Meeting☐ Meeting Completed

Actions:

[Upload Image](#)

Text:

[Text](#)**Meeting Type(s)**

Possible Types

Administrative Review  
Adoption Applicant Review Committee  
Adoption Match Staffing  
Adoption Meeting  
Adoption Quarterly Staffing  
Adoption Support Group  
Adoption Transition Staffing

Add &gt;

Add All Values &gt;&gt;

&lt; Remove

&lt;&lt; Remove All

Selected Types

Adoption Match Staffing

Document

Meeting Participants and Outcome

Notice Type: Schedule ▼Is this meeting being conducted pursuant to multi-disciplinary staffing Florida Statute 39.4022? Yes ☐ No ☐Unanimous Decision? Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐ Department Agrees with Goal of Staffing? Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐ Decision Date? 00/00/0000**FSFN Participants**

Name	Role	Attended	Notified	In Favor of Outcome?	
QVMPPH, AMY M		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<span>▼</span>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
RMMZNLIZGL, RICHARD	Worker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<span>▼</span>	<a href="#">Delete</a>

Person Search

Insert

**Other Participants**

Name	Role	Attended	Notified	In Favor of Outcome?
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# Frequently Asked Questions



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## Q&A

**Q:** Is an Emergency/Initial placement MDT required when the children are placed with a non-offending biological parent?

**A:** Response: Yes, a removal from a parent regardless of where the child is placed constitutes a “placement change” under s. 39.4023, F.S., that requires the convening of an MDT pursuant to s. 39.4022, F.S., for the purposes of developing a transition plan. In addition to discussing transition planning (both placement and educational), an MDT conducted when a child is placed with a biological parent should also address factors related to sibling group placements in s. 39.4024(3)(b), F.S..

**Q:** Is an MDT needed to start the reunification process with a parent when the child is already placed in the home of the other parent?

**A:** If the home assessment for the purposes of reunification and the in-home safety plan has been prepared, a change in placement MDT is not required. However, a placement/education transition MDT pursuant to s. 39.4023, F.S., must be conducted, which should include a discussion of maintaining sibling contact if separated.





## Q&A

Q: Are transition plans required for initial removal MDTs?

A: Yes, transition plans are required for all removals pursuant to s. 39.4023, F.S.

Q: Who is responsible for facilitating the initial removal MDTs when a new baby is born on an open dependency case where case management is primary?

A: The case manager, who is already the primary worker on the existing family case, will be responsible for taking the lead and will initiate the request for an MDT.

Q: MDTs only occur when children are initially placed into foster care and not when they are placed with relatives/nonrelatives?

A: Pursuant to the new statutory language (law), MDTs must be convened for every initial removal, subsequent removal, and placement change where a child is placed in out-of-home care regardless of the type of placement the child is entering (including relative placements).





## Q&A

Q: Should the ACEs questions be asked each time a placement move MDT is held?

A: The ACE questions are not required to be asked/updated at each placement move. The child welfare professional is required to gather the necessary information to complete the ACE questions upon initial removal. The case management team will complete updates to any of the ACE questions as needed.

Q: If a current caregiver moves to a new home with the intentions of keeping the children, but the home is in a new school district (but nothing about the physical caregiver has changed), would this require an MDT?

A: Yes, an MDT is required when the Department or CBC changes a child's physical address and/or changes a child's educational setting.

Q: When do you complete a Comprehensive Placement Assessment?

A: The assessment must be completed at initial removal into out-of-home care by the CPI, and at every placement move. A comprehensive placement assessment is not required when a child's level of care changes from relative or non-relative placement to a Level I foster home, so long as the child is not making a physical change of placement. The assessment must be reviewed every three months to ensure permanency for that child.





## Q&A

Q: Are multiple MDTs required for children who have multiple physical placement changes within the 72 hours or one-night placements? Is it ok to combine?

A: A change in placement MDT and placement transition plan MDT is needed for every physical placement change pursuant to s. 39.4022, F.S., and s. 39.4023, F.S. If a child experiences more than one physical change in placement within a 72-hour period, the MDTs may be combined. Any physical change in placement outside of the 72-hour period would require a new MDT.

Q: Is the child's mental health considered an exception to the statute's language of when moving a child can be considered an emergency?

A: Section 39.4023(2)(a), F.S. defined "emergency situation" as imminent risk to the health or safety of the child, other children, to others in the home or facility if the child remains in the placement.

Q: Once a Child Protection Director's decision has been received (non-consensus MDTs), can an agency begin to transition a child as outlined in the transition plan?

A: After the decision has been made, the Department must file with the court the required written notice 14 days prior to the planned move. Upon receiving no legal objections, the Department/CBC may begin to transition the child to the new placement as outlined in the transition plan filed with the court.





## Q&A

Q: What do we do to get documents translated, such as transition plans?

A: For forms created by the Department and/or forms that have been adopted into rule, the Department is responsible for the costs related to translation, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Department employees may reach out to the Limited English Proficient (LEP) resources in their Region for assistance:  
<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/individual-with-disability/lep.shtml>

Any other documents not produced by the Department, the cost for translation is the responsibility of the owner of the document.

Q: When a child leaves an emergency shelter or other placement does it require a 14-day notice prior to placing the child with the new caregiver?

A: Yes, to move a child from any placement (i.e., emergency shelter, foster home, group home, relative or non-relative caregiver) to a different planned placement [(F.S. 39.4022(2)(a-b)], an MDT must be completed (F.S. 39.4022 (5)(a)), and required notification guidelines must be followed (F.S. 39.4023(3)(d)3.).





## Q&A

Q: Must an MDT be completed when the CBC Lead Agency identifies a potential adoptive placement for a child whose current placement does not wish to adopt?

A: Yes, a placement move and transition plan MDT pursuant to s. 39.4022 and 39.4023, F.S., must be completed prior to any planned placement change for a child in out-of-home care.

Q: When does an AARC follow the MDT process outlined in the Facilitator Handbook?

A: The MDT guidance will be updated to reflect that an MDT staffing will only be required as outlined in s. 39.4022, F.S., and s. 39.4023, F.S., when the final outcome following an AARC committee recommendation requires a placement change.

Q: If a caregiver has an injunction against a parent, who will get invited to the MDT?

A: Section 39.4022(4)(a)1.b., F.S., states that a parent “who has a no contact order or injunction,” may not participate in the staffing.





## Q&A

Q: Definition of “child has sufficient capacity to attend”?

A: There is no “capacity” definition in Chapter 39, F.S. A capacity determination will need to be made on a case-by-case situation, in which you must assess the situation and whether the child has the medical, mental, and emotional capacity to understand the goal of the MDT. In assessing for the goal, staff should also ensure that the child will not experience additional trauma by attending the staffing.

Q: What constitutes a non-consensus? Any disagreement? What if one parent disagrees with reunification to the other parent when they have not reached reunification yet? What if a young child doesn't want to change placement? At what age does the child have a say?

A: Section 39.4022, F.S., uses the term unanimous consensus. Therefore, in terms of unanimous consensus in the MDT setting, all participants must agree with how to address the identified goal of the staffing in order to meet a unanimous consensus. If there is not a unanimous consensus, any MDT assessment tool and supporting documentation shall be forwarded to the Regional Child Protection Director (CPD) or their designee. The CPD will then review and determine how to address the identified goals of the staffing. See above question related to age for a child to participate in the staffing.







## Q&A

Q: Is it appropriate for a foster family/prior caregiver that has an ongoing investigation to participate in these staffings?

A: Yes, provided there is not a no contact order and/or injunction in place and there is not an allegation of sexual abuse, the current caregiver must be invited pursuant to s. 39.4022 and s. 394023, F.S.

Q: Is DCF Facilitator attendance required at the CBC-led MDT or only when requested?

A: A DCF representative is required to attend a Change of Placement MDT when the outcome following an AARC committee recommendation requires a placement change. All other CBC-led MDTs do not require a DCF representative to be in attendance unless the Department is directly involved in the goal identified by the staffing.

Q: Are CBC Lead Agencies required to attend/participate in DCF-Led MDTs (primarily emergency placement/removal staffings)?

A: Invitations must be extended for all of the required participants as outlined in statute for MDTs, but the statute does not mandate attendance. The purpose of the MDT is to address all components that are in the best interest of the child that are currently happening in their life and in the future. So, those participants that will be involved in future aspects of the child's life should be invited.

# Thank You!

***Brooke Bass***

*Director of Protection and Safety  
Office of Child and Family Well-Being*

***Courtney Smith***

*Chief of Licensing  
Office of Quality and Innovation*

***Vanessa Snoddy***

*Manager of Policy and Practice  
Office of Quality and Innovation*

