

TDM: A CONVERSATION WITH ATTORNEYS

TEAM DECISIONMAKING IS...

- An informal, social work-driven process through which a public child welfare agency fulfills its legal mandate to make decisions regarding placement of children under its jurisdiction
- An internal agency practice, usually invisible to the Court, except that social work staff and families who appear in Court tend to be better prepared and the agency's petition is more strongly supported
- A process which honors consensus as the ultimate goal
- A forum which brings together family members, their support groups, agency staff, neighborhood representatives and service providers to participate in live decisionmaking about placement issues
- An opportunity to thoroughly examine a family's strengths and needs while assessing the safety and risk factors which impact decisionmaking around placement
- A meeting which supports careful examination of questions having a legal impact, including reasonable efforts and concurrent planning
- A forum which provides solid preparation for social workers who will present the agency's recommendations for placement and custody in Court

TEAM DECISIONMAKING IS NOT...

- A process which is mandated, either by statute or administrative rule
- Mediation
- A forum for pretrial discovery
- Formal in tone or process
- A meeting which promises complete confidentiality to any participant
- Adversarial
- Intended to be a direct source for potential case settlement options