

Family Preservation Services (FPS) Overview

What are FPS?

FPS are short-term, intensive, home-based, crisis interventions. FPS combine skill-based interventions and flexibility so services are available to families according to their individual needs.

The goal of FPS is to offer families in crisis the supports and skills needed to remain together safely, averting out-of-home placement of children whenever possible. FPS function to modify the home environment and/or family behavior so that the child may remain safely in the parental household or in placement with kin or fictive kin caregivers. Services are focused on assisting in crisis management, restoring the family to an acceptable level of functioning, and gaining support within their community to remain safely together.

Who is eligible for FPS? When are they available?

FPS are targeted to families with children at imminent risk of removal from their home of origin or from kin/fictive kin caregivers and placement in 'stranger' foster care. FPS are available during a Child Abuse Assessment, a CINA Assessment, and anytime during an open Department child welfare service case. FPS are delivered in 10 calendar day units and a family may not be referred for more than three consecutive units of FPS.

What are Child Safety Conferences (CSCs)?

CSCs are utilized for children at risk of removal and placement in foster care. Parents are invited to attend a CSC to help identify collaborative solutions that allow the children and family to remain together. If it is not possible for the children to remain in the home, the goal is to ensure that the children are placed with kin or fictive kin caregivers rather than in a foster care placement.

CSCs are held in order to make key decisions on:

- The safety of the child,
- Service and treatment needs necessary for the child to remain with their parent or parents and/or natural supports,
- Developing a plan to prevent removal,
- The appropriate placement of the child if removal is necessary,
- The child's access and opportunities for normal activities based on the reasonable and prudent parenting standard.

An initial CSC is required within three business days of a referral to FPS with a follow up CSC facilitated within 10 calendar days from the date of the initial CSC. The decisions resulting from a CSC will direct the blend of FPS and supports provided in order to maintain children safety in the home or with kin/fictive kin caregivers. The focus is

development of solutions that will remove the risks placing children in imminent risk of removal.

What can families expect when receiving FPS?

Family Support Specialists (FSS) assigned to provide FPS will utilize motivational interviewing to engage and support the family.

The FSS will be available 24 hours a day, seven days per week. The FSS will ensure a 2 hour response time, either face-to-face or by telephone depending on the situation, to any crisis, as defined by the family, the Department worker, or the FSS that threatens the safety of the children.

The FSS, at a minimum, will make at least eight face-to-face casework contacts with the family during the 10-calendar day unit. These casework contacts will be at least 60 minutes in length and include interventions and assessment of parent/child interactions and all other situations that could constitute danger and risk to the children.