



FAMILY SERVICES OTTAWA SERVICES À LA FAMILLE OTTAWA

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM (ADR)

Are You Currently Working with a Children's Aid Society?

How can FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING (FGC) help you?

- The FGC Coordinator is highly trained and does not work for your Children's Aid Society.
- The FGC Coordinator doesn't take sides, make decisions for you or judge you.
- Everyone in your family group works together to help make a plan for your children.
- FGC includes and values the voices of everyone, including children.
- It is a voluntary process.
- There is no cost to you.
- FGC may help reduce your time in court.

How can FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING (FGC) help you?

Family Group Conferencing (FGC) is a way of bringing together your friends and relatives to help make a plan for your children.

The ADR program gives you and your family a chance to make decisions about the care of your children. It may take place where there is no court involvement or during the court process.

Family Group Conferencing (FGC) is a way of bringing together your friends and relatives to help make a plan for your children.

<https://www.georgehullcentre.on.ca/family-group-conferencing-ontario-provincial-resource>

How To Start?

Ask your society worker to consider a referral. Once a referral is made, the ADR Program will notify the Office of the Children's Lawyer who may appoint a lawyer to ensure your child(ren)'s/youth voice is heard. Then the ADR Program contacts a coordinator to get things started.

*All FGC Coordinators are rostered members of the Ontario Provincial FGC Roster.

<https://www.georgehullcentre.on.ca/ontario-family-group-conferencing-coordinator-roster>

What Happens Next?

The Family Group Conference (FGC) Coordinator meets with CAS, you and your family individually, to review:

- How FGC works and what to expect in the process.
- The purpose and details of the meeting.
- Where and when the meeting will be held.

Day of FGC Conference (3 parts)

- **Part 1—Opening**
 - Everyone gets to meet each other and reviews purpose of meeting.
- **Part 2—Private Family Time**
 - Your family has time to meet alone to create your plan for you children.
- **Part 3—Review of the plan**
 - Sharing of your plan to the larger group and discussion to reach agreement.

What Happens After the Conference?

A written copy of the final plan will be sent to each participant within 10 days of the conference. You and your family will work together with your society worker to carry out the plan.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I change my mind?

Family Group Conferencing is a voluntary process and no one can be forced to participate. *It's your right to stop at any point*

What If Family Group Conferencing Does Not End In An Agreement?

- If there is no agreement, the case continues just like it was before it was referred.

Is There A Cost To The Family For Family Group Conferencing?

- This is a free service for families. The program is funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.