

Why is this FPM happening?

Initial Foster Care FPMs happen...

- ❖ Within the first month after the Court places a child into Foster Care.
- ❖ To create an initial service plan for submission to and approval by the Court that includes:
 - ❖ Strengths and needs of the family
 - ❖ Discussion of the permanency goal and the concurrent goal
 - ❖ Steps and services to achieve the goal
 - ❖ Identifying family and other natural supports
- ❖ To share information about your child and discuss how he/she is doing
- ❖ (Return Home, Placement with Relatives, Permanent Foster Care, Adoption, Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement, or Fostering Futures).



Before the meeting, plan to...

- ❖ Think about the people who know and care about your children and family and invite them to attend the meeting with you.
- ❖ Participate for up to two hours.
- ❖ Express if there is anything that would help you participate (childcare, transportation, safety, etc.)
- ❖ Understand the conversation may be emotional and challenging.

How to prepare for your FPM?

- ❖ Talk about what your family needs to keep your children safe and help them thrive.

At the meeting, plan to...

- ❖ Express your feelings about your children and family.
- ❖ Talk about your strengths and what is going well.
- ❖ Share what worries you about your family.
- ❖ Talk about what your family needs to keep your children safe, help them thrive, and provide them with a consistent and stable home.
- ❖ Talk about services that have helped or could help.
- ❖ Make decisions for your children and family.

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Contact: _____

**Albemarle County
Department of Social Services**

Family Partnership Meetings

**Initial Foster Care
FPM**





What's an FPM?

- ❖ A team meeting for your family that includes people who care about your family.
- ❖ An open and creative way for parents, family, friends, professionals, and DSS to work together to make a plan to keep your children safe and stable.
- ❖ The meeting is structured and led by a facilitator who is not involved with your case. The facilitator will make sure everyone can participate and the meeting stays focused.

How do FPMs work?

- ❖ Everyone uses respectful, open, and honest communication that respects the privacy of the family.
- ❖ The family team will discuss the purpose of the meeting.
- ❖ The team will talk about your children and family's strengths to help build the plan.
- ❖ The team will then discuss the concerns and your family's needs.
- ❖ Next, the team will "brainstorm" and suggest ideas to support your family.
- ❖ Finally, the team will make decisions and create a step-by-step plan to accomplish the goals.
- ❖ The team tries to reach an agreement on the plan.
- ❖ Everyone will leave the meeting with a printed copy of the plan.



Why is an FPM important?

Because...

- ❖ Children do best when they are connected to family.
- ❖ Family participation improves decision making and outcomes for children.
- ❖ All families have strengths and are experts on themselves.
- ❖ Teamwork is the best way to make decisions about child safety, stability, permanency, and well-being.

