

Restorative Justice Practices Available Court-Connected Services

Child Welfare Restorative Justice Practices available through ODR-approved centers*:

- FGC: (Family group conferencing):** This research-based child and family-centered approach may be used at any stage of the child welfare process. FGC Coordinators proficient in working with complex family dynamics in children and youth matters individually meet with, prepare, and engage family, extended family, and a network of others to create a meaningful and accountable family plan or a youth/young adult plan. Private family time is an essential component of the decision-making process.
- PHC: (Pre-hearing conference – initial removal):** Scheduled by the juvenile court immediately preceding the initial protective custody hearing, independent neutrals facilitate a brief (30-45 minute) conference to address key preliminary safety and permanency issues with parents, child welfare workers, attorneys, and guardians ad litem.
- PHPR: (Pre-hearing twelve month permanency review):** Optimally scheduled 60 days prior to twelve-month permanency review court hearing, this off-site facilitated prehearing conference requires the parents, child welfare workers, attorneys, and GALs to confront critical progress, permanency decisions, and action steps for the future of the child.
- PHTPR: (Pre-hearing termination of parental rights):** Independent neutrals prepare and facilitate a conference of parents, attorneys, GALs, and other professionals to confront the critical issues and determine next steps, including a consideration of relinquishment as well as contested trial, in a termination of parental rights matter.
- CWM: (Child welfare mediation):** One-on-one sessions between family members and providers, parent and foster parent, or family members themselves to solve problems that are a barrier to case progression.
- CWF: (Child welfare facilitation):** Multi-party facilitation to unravel conflicts and set a better course direction for the child, parents, and caregivers.

Research[‡] demonstrates that:

- ✓ Children achieve permanency more quickly in mediation or collaborative intervention than in non-mediated cases
- ✓ Reduction of re-abuse rates for children occurs more often in FGC cases than non-FGC
- ✓ Increase of using extended family members care for children at risk in FGC cases
- ✓ Reduction in the number of multiple placements – FGC plans create stability for children

[‡]American Humane Association, www.fgdm.org

Juvenile Justice Restorative Justice Practices available through ODR-approved centers*:

- EFGC: (Expedited family group conference):** A limited-scope facilitated planning meeting to address immediate placement issues for the juvenile.
- VYC (Victim Youth Conferencing):** An evidenced-based facilitated dialogue between a youth and victim or victim surrogate. A neutral facilitates a dialogue to identify the needs of the youth, the victim, and the community in repairing the harm.
- YTM (Youth Truancy Mediation):** A process available to truant youth and other stakeholders to gain an understanding of the factors to the truant behavior, and develop a plan to ameliorate those factors.
- JJM: (Juvenile justice mediation):** One-on-one sessions between youth, family members, and providers, or family members themselves to solve problems that are a barrier to case progression.
- JJF: (Juvenile justice facilitation):** Multi-party facilitation to unravel conflicts and set a better course direction for the youth at any time through the case outside of scheduled court hearings. .

Collaborative restorative justice practices are those in which:

- ✓ Family members and/or youth are invited and encouraged to be part of the decision-making process
- ✓ Relationships can be strengthened
- ✓ Cases generally progress more quickly with the use of an independent facilitator
- ✓ Provide a trauma-informed approach incorporating core principles[‡]: empowerment, choice, collaboration, safety, trustworthiness

[‡] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; www.samhsa.gov

*As funding and other resources are available.

For more information, contact:

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