Family Name: ________________________________

Date of Supervision/Team Consultation: ____________________________

Date of Referral: ____________________________

Date of Conference: ____________________________

(Awareness of these dates helps the supervisor and coordinator determine: 1) if the family has been given enough time to process the information provided by the child welfare agency; 2) if the time between referral and conference has been sufficient to allow the coordinator and family group to widen the circle; and 3) when to conclude preparation to move to the Conference).

Goal of Consultation: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________

Purpose:

Engagement:

Identify next steps:

Widening the Circle:

Assessment of Safety Concerns:

Culture/Worldview:
### Purpose
Understanding the purpose of the FGC guides the consultation process. It helps the supervisor or team connect and evaluate the practice elements to the purpose of the conference and the goal of the consultation process.

### Widening the Circle
The intent of the FGC is to widen the circle to create the most expansive, committed group of supporters and decision makers. Use the following to ascertain the inclusiveness of the existing circle (paternal/maternal family, community members, friends) and where potential exploration may be helpful.
- Have the coordinator depict the family group in a Genogram, Connect-o-gram or Tree of Life diagram/picture (see attached).
- Consistently ask "Who else?" to support the coordinator exploring other possibilities to widen the circle.
- Explore the inclusion of children and options to ensure their voice is present.

### Cultural/Worldview
The culture of a family may present as obvious or may need further exploration to ensure that the family’s culture is respected and honored. To understand the family’s needs and interests, it may be helpful for the Coordinator to have a sense of the family’s degree of suspicion with dominant groups; history of oppression and impact on their perceptions today; distrust of governmental systems; and a learned sense of helplessness. Responses to the questions below may reveal that culture/worldviews may need to be explored in more depth; more engagement is necessary; and/or may identify for the coordinator that culture/worldviews are being honored and respected in the process.
- How does the family identify themselves culturally? What has been observed? What has been stated?
- Describe the family’s orientation to the world around them — their worldview?
- What has been done to incorporate the family’s cultural perspectives, needs and/or patterns of living in the FGC?

### Assessment of Safety Concerns
Establishing a synchronistic and common understanding of the safety concerns from the family and the worker/agency involved will help set the meeting up for success, decrease confusion during preparation, and minimize surprises or new information being disclosed at the conference, which can have a derailing effect. Differing perspectives may indicate that more preparation is needed prior to the conference.
- What are the safety concerns from the perspective of the family?
- What are the safety concerns from the perspective of the worker?
- What are the safety concerns from the perspective of the FGDM coordinator?

### Engagement
Asking the coordinator the following questions may help to: 1) determine if more engagement work needs to be done) 2) establish action steps that may evaluate the family’s motivations for engaging; 3) illuminate if the family is “owning” the process; and 4) whether the agency or family is leading?
- What leaders have emerged in the family? What steps have they taken to help prepare for and organize the meeting?
- How has the family been included in making decisions throughout the preparation process?
- How do you know that the family/worker is engaged? What behaviors do you see? What do they say?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being not at all engaged and 10 being completely engaged, where would you rate the family’s level of engagement (answer based on a consensus of the family group); what about the worker’s level of engagement? What do I as the coordinator need to occur to get the family/worker from a ___ to a ____.

### Next Steps
Based on all that has been discussed, the following are some questions that can be explored with the coordinator regarding next steps.
- What needs to be shared with...?
- What primary concerns need to be addressed?
- What do you need or need to know to get the family/worker from a ___ to a ___ in order to set the conference process up for success?