

ISSUED DATE: August 22, 2025

TO: ☒ Children's Division ☒ Contracted Staff

FROM: Sara Smith, Children's Division Director

SUBJECT: **Team Decision Making® (TDM™) Meetings**

OVERVIEW:

The safety and welfare of children is paramount to Children's Division (CD) operations. CD should ensure the safety of children and children should not be left in unsafe situations.

Team Decision Making® (TDM™) meetings should only be used in situations where a child is not in imminent danger. In situations where a child is in imminent danger, a TDM™ meeting prior to removal is not appropriate and the CD worker must immediately make a referral to the Juvenile Office requesting protective custody.

Effective immediately, CD team members will no longer conduct Initial TDM™ meetings prior to the separation of a child(ren) from caregivers. However, TDM™ meetings held pursuant to Section 210.123 RSMo and 13 CSR 35-30.030 are still required. Pursuant to statute, TDM meetings shall be held in situations where a child and parent have been separated through a Temporary Alternative Placement Agreement (TAPA) and **must** be held within ten (10) days of the execution of a TAPA and at least once every month thereafter for the duration of the agreement.

TDM meetings may also be conducted to develop a plan to work with families through a Family Centered Services (FCS) case and to implement Intensive In-home Services (IIS) to support families and alleviate safety risk. This should only occur in situations where a child is not in imminent danger.

Outside of required TAPA TDM™s, if a circuit has implemented Placement Stability TDM™ meetings, Placement Stability TDM™ meetings should continue, however new circuits should not implement Placement Stability TDM™ meetings at this time.

While we continue to evaluate the best use of TDM™ meetings, TDM™ facilitators may be used to assist with supporting facilitation of Family Support Team (FST) meetings. During this evaluation process, additional guidance will be provided as we find the most impactful TDM™ model to utilize for children, families, and partners in Missouri.

NECESSARY ACTIONS:

- Review this Practice Alert with all leadership, supervisory, and investigative staff, and any other staff that are responsible for conducting TDM™ Meetings
- Review [Section 1, Chapter 5, Understanding and Assessing Child Safety](#)
- Review [Section 1, Chapter 9, Safety Planning](#)

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CHILD WELFARE MANUAL POLICY AND COLLATERAL DOCUMENTATION:	