

If you have any questions about the Initial Child Safety Conference (ICSC), please contact the Children's Services staff listed below:

Child Protective Specialist's Name:

Phone Number: _____

Supervisor's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Case Number: _____

Conference Location: _____

Conference Time: _____

What is an Initial Child Safety Conference?

A Child Safety Conference is a meeting used to determine the most appropriate intervention that will keep a child safe, while involving and empowering the parents/caretakers in the decision making process.

Initial Child Safety Conference (ICSC)

Every Child Deserves to Be Safe



NYC Children's Services

Michael R. Bloomberg, *Mayor*
John B. Mattingly, *Commissioner*
Jan Flory, *Deputy Commissioner*

Initial Child Safety Conference (ICSC)

Dear Parent/Caretaker:

The New York City Administration for Children's Services has determined that an Initial Child Safety Conference (ICSC) is necessary to protect your children. We are therefore inviting you to participate in this conference at which a decision will be made to best protect your children. We want to work with you to keep your children safe, to strengthen your family, and to ensure your involvement in any decisions that will be made.

Why hold an ICSC?

- ▶ To provide a forum where all perspectives of a safety situation can be shared and discussed.
- ▶ To make a comprehensive assessment of your family's functioning, including your family's strengths and service needs.
- ▶ To reach a decision about a plan that protects your children, maintains your family's bonds, and establishes permanency for your children.

Who participates in the conference?

The conference will include yourself, your supports / resources, Child Protective staff, parent advocates, community based resources, Family Preservation staff, and any applicable service provider who can contribute information to develop the most appropriate course of action. A Child Evaluation Specialist (CES) will facilitate the conference. Every CES is trained in

group facilitation and mediation skills.

What happens at an ICSC?

Conferences begin by identifying the situation that prompted the meeting and a discussion of the safety concerns. Then, there is a discussion of the family's and child's strengths and challenges that serve as a means to developing a recommended safety plan. Please come prepared to share your concerns and your ideas and bring with you any supporting documents.

The decision at an ICSC can result in a community-based service plan, court intervention or foster care placement, if necessary.

Where and when will the conference be held?

Your Child Protective Specialist will provide you with the location and time of your conference. If the situation requires an immediate safety intervention, it is likely that the conference will be held the same day as the home visit. In some situations, the conference may have to be held the next working day. If this occurs, you may be asked to make a safety arrangement for your children, or to sign a 3-Day Consent to Placement. This means that your children can be placed in foster care, with your permission, for up to 3 days without involvement by the Family Court. This will provide an opportunity for extended assessment, discussion and safety planning.