

■ This symbol indicates a term from the 2015 NDHHS DCFS Protection and Safety Glossary. Proceedings involving Indian children sometimes have terms with unique definitions. The following symbol 🗨 represents a term that includes language unique to working with an Indian child. For questions about ICWA, contact Sherri Haber, at (402) 471-7989. In any proceeding involving an Indian child, please check the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act (25 U.S.C. 1901 through 1963) and the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act (Nebraska Revised Statutes 43-1503 through 43-1516).

1, 2, OR 4

Identifies the statute under which a youth has been adjudicated in Nebraska for committing an act considered to be a misdemeanor, felony, or a traffic offense, respectively. A quick reference to a juvenile offender case, based on Nebraska Revised Statutes (N.R.S.) 43-247 (1), (2), or (4).

1184 TEAM See Also: Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) , Interdisciplinary Team

A term used to describe teams that monitor and coordinate the investigation and treatment of families where child abuse or neglect has been found. Every county in Nebraska is required to create and maintain 1184 Teams. (NRS 28-728 – 28-730)

3a: Identifies the statute under which a child has been adjudicated in Nebraska as having been abused or neglected. A quick reference to a child maltreatment case, based on N.R.S. 43-247 (3a). This could be due to the fault of a parent or due to no fault of the parent.

3A

Identifies the statute under which a child has been adjudicated in Nebraska as having been abused or neglected. A quick reference to a child maltreatment case, based on N.R.S. 43-247 (3a). This could be due to the fault of the parent or due to no fault of the parent.

3B

Identifies the statute under which a youth has been adjudicated in Nebraska as wayward; habitually disobedient; uncontrolled by his or her parent; a danger to the morals or health of himself, herself, or others; or habitually truant. A quick reference to a status offender case, based on N.R.S. 43-247(3b).

504

A reference to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This federal civil rights provision prohibits any program that receives any federal funds from discriminating against a person on the basis of a disability.

This provision requires schools to make classrooms accessible and also to accommodate the needs of children with disabilities, whether or not they qualify for Special Education services.

A

ABANDONED CHILD

A child who is without an appropriate caregiver due to the intentional act and conscious decision of the parent not to care for the child.^{61, 64}

ABANDONMENT

A parent's intentionally withholding from a child, without just cause or excuse, the parent's presence, care, love, protection and maintenance and the opportunity for the display of parental affection for the child.^{61, 64}

ABFC

Agency Based Foster Care

ABFC (AGENCY BASED FOSTER CARE) See Also: **Agency-Supported Foster Care (ASFC)**

Agency Based Foster Care is a temporary placement that is provided in a license foster home when family or kinship options are not available. The agency is expected to ensure background checks are completed per child placing agency license. The foster home is supported by a licensed agency or through the Department of Health and Human Services. The foster home provides 24-hour care and supervision for youth by a trained foster family. Also known as Agency Supported Foster Care.

ABSCONDER

A juvenile offender who hides, conceals, or absents himself/herself with the intent to avoid legal process or authorized control.

ABSENT PARENT

A parent who is not available to the child and unknown to the Department.

Action can be taken to terminate parental rights if continued efforts to locate the parent are unsuccessful after significant efforts have been made to identify and locate the absent parent.

ABUSE See Also: **Physical Abuse , Serious Physical Abuse and/or Neglect , Emotional Abuse , Sexual Abuse**

ABUSE AND NEGLECT SCORES

The total of the scores in the abuse and neglect indices in the Risk Assessment. When each column is added up in the abuse column, a total abuse score is determined. Then the neglect column is added together to generate a neglect score. Whichever score is higher, is the risk level.³

ABUSIVE HEAD TRAUMA (AHT) See Also: **Shaken Baby Syndrome**

A general term used to include any intentional injury to the head. This term is preferred to Shaken Baby Syndrome by many people because it places the focus on the effect and not on the mechanism of injury. Shaking is still considered the most important mechanism for causing subdural hematomas and retinal hemorrhages in children under two without extensive bruising to the head.

ACQUITTAL

Judgment that a criminal defendant has not been proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.⁴

ACTIVE EFFORTS See Also: **Indian Child Welfare Acts (ICWA)**

Efforts, required by the Indian Child Welfare Act, to provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs to prevent the breakup of the Indian family. Active efforts are more than reasonable efforts and include culturally appropriate services.²

When working with an Indian child, the CFS Specialist must go beyond reasonable efforts (i.e., active efforts must be made to provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs) to prevent the breakup of the family. Active efforts are culturally relevant and include some consideration of services to the children. They include the involvement of the tribe, extended family, and individual Indian caregivers and utilization of tribal services whenever possible. Individual Indian caregivers include medicine men and other individual tribal members who may have developed special skills that can be used to help the family succeed. Active efforts requires an understanding that there may be varying degrees of cultural differences in parenting practices that may be dependent upon tribal cultures and are reflected in values (individual and material or family/tribe and collective well-being), communication (verbal or non-verbal), evidence of bonding and

attachment (hugs and kisses or providing food), etc. Active efforts may include assisting the parent or Indian custodian in making the appointment, arranging for transportation, or taking the parent or Indian custodian to the appointment.⁵

Active efforts means and includes and includes, but is not limited to:

1. A concerted level of casework both prior to and after the removal of an Indian child, exceeding the level that is required under reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify the family described in section 43-283.01 in a manner consistent with the prevailing social and cultural conditions and way of life of the Indian child's tribe or tribes to the extent possible under the circumstances;
2. A request to the Indian child's tribe or tribes and extended family known to the department or the state to convene traditional and customary support and services;
3. Actively engaging, assisting, and monitoring the family's access to and progress in culturally appropriate and available resources of the Indian child's extended family members, tribal service area, Indian tribe or tribes, and individual Indian caregivers;
4. Identification of and provision of information to the Indian child's extended family members known to the department or the state concerning appropriate community, state, and federal resources that may be able to offer housing, financial, and transportation assistance and actively assisting the family in accessing such community, state, and federal resources;
5. Identification of and attempts to engage tribally designated Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act representatives;
6. Consultation with extended family members known to the department or the state, or a tribally designated Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act representative if an extended family member cannot be located, to identify family or tribal support services that could be provided by extended family members or other tribal members if extended family members cannot be located; and
7. Exhaustion of all available tribally appropriate family preservation alternatives.^{61, 64, 65}

ADDICTION

ADDICTION SEVERITY INDEX (ASI)

A standard assessment tool widely used in the assessment of substance abuse, dependence, and treatment. The ASI is an interview that assesses history, frequency, and consequences of alcohol and drug use, as well as five additional domains that are commonly associated with drug use: medical, legal, employment, social/family, and psychological functioning. The higher the score on the ASI indicates a greater need for treatment in each of these areas. The ASI is a required part of the Comprehensive Family Assessment (CFA).

ADJUDICATED FATHER

An individual who has been adjudicated by a Nebraska court of competent jurisdiction or a court in any state to be the biological father of a child born out of wedlock. An adjudicated father will not be construed to be a putative father according to the law.²

ADJUDICATION

The process of rendering a judicial decision as to whether the facts alleged in a petition or other pleadings are true.^{61, 64}

ADJUDICATION HEARING

One of several names given to a hearing leading up to the court making the adjudication decision (the decision about whether the allegations in the petition concerning the child are proven by the evidence). The court must accomplish several procedural and evidentiary tasks before making the adjudication decision, and each person who may potentially be directly affected has the right to have notice about the proceedings as well as the right to be heard in this hearing or hearings.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

A due process hearing held to appeal a decision made by a state agency.^{61, 64}

ADOPTEE

An adopted person.⁶

ADOPTION 🗨️

The method provided by law to establish the legal relationship of parent and child with the same mutual rights and obligations that exist between children and their birth parents.^{61, 64}

For some Indian children, depending upon tribal custom and tradition, parents' rights may remain intact yet the child is adopted, resulting in 3 or more parents who all have parental rights. This is called Tribal Customary Adoption.⁵

ADOPTION AGENCY

A legally regulated entity that provides one or more of the following: assessment of prospective adoptive parents, counseling services to birth parents, preparation and placement of children with adoptive families, and post-adoption services. Agencies may be public or private, secular or religious, for profit or non-profit. A listing of Nebraska's Adoption Agencies can be found at www.adoptionnebraska.com.^{7, 8}

ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE ANALYSIS AND REPORTING SYSTEM (AFCARS)

A nationwide mandatory data collection system that collects automated case-level information on all children in foster care for whom DHHS has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision. Information is also collected on children whose adoptions from the foster care system have been finalized. The AFCARS data allow for analyses regarding the number and characteristics of children who are in foster care and who are adopted, the circumstances associated with children's removal from home, the length of time children spend in foster care, and many other factors.⁹

ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT (ASFA) 🗨️

Passed in 1997, ASFA provides both changes and clarification of policies of the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act. Intended to improve safety of children, promote adoptions and permanent homes for children, and support families. Stipulates that child safety is of paramount importance during reunification efforts and provides exceptions to reasonable efforts requirements (but this does not impact the ICWA requirement for active efforts). Requires concurrent planning; provides financial incentives and technical assistance to states to promote adoption activities; includes system accountability and reform provisions; and outlines state requirements for performance measures for state child welfare programs. It also promotes the study of kinship placement feasibility. (Public Law [P.L.] 105-89)^{5, 9}

ADOPTION ASSISTANCE (ALSO KNOWN AS ADOPTION SUBSIDIES) See Also: **Subsidized Adoption , Adoption Subsidies**

Federal (title IV-E of the Social Security Act) or State benefits granted to adoptive families to offset the short- and long-term costs of adopting eligible children who have special needs (defined differently in each State). Benefits vary by State but commonly include monthly cash payments, medical assistance, social services, and nonrecurring adoption expenses.⁸

ADOPTION ASSISTANCE AND CHILD WELFARE ACT See Also: **Subsidized Adoption**

Passed in 1980, this law ties federal foster care funding to, and provides fiscal incentives to, the implementation of policies related to family preservation and permanency planning. Worker and courts are obligated to demonstrate and certify that reasonable efforts were made to preserve families before children can be placed in foster care or be made eligible for adoption. Provides fiscal incentives to support the adoption of children determined to have special needs. (P.L. 96-272)⁹

ADOPTION ATTORNEY

A lawyer who practices in the field of adoption law, including the application of State and Federal laws pertaining to adoption matters, and who has proficiency in filing, processing, and the finalization of adoption matters in courts having appropriate jurisdiction.⁸

ADOPTION DECREE

The document that a judge signs to finalize an adoption. It formally creates the parent-child relationship between the adoptive parents and the adopted child, as though the child were born as the biological child of its new parents. It places full responsibility for the child on its new parents and changes the name of the child to the name selected by its new parents, and orders a new birth certificate to be prepared and issued for the child. Also called the "Decree of Adoption".¹⁰

ADOPTION DISRUPTION

Termination of an adoptive placement prior to finalization of the adoption.^{61, 64}

ADOPTION DISSOLUTION

Legal termination of an adoption that has been finalized, including legal termination of the adoptive parent(s)' rights.^{61, 64}

ADOPTION EXCHANGE

A listing of children with special needs for whom an adoptive family is being sought, and of families approved for adoption of special needs for children. Some exchanges also list children needing a legal risk placement.^{61, 64}

ADOPTION PETITION

This is the legal document filed with the court by an Attorney on the behalf of the prospective parents to request the court's permission to adopt a specific child.^{6, 11}

ADOPTION REGISTRY

A central repository of profiles for all families approved for adoption or foster-adoption by the Department and available for such a placement.^{61, 64}

ADOPTION SEARCH

The process of searching for birth parents or relatives. Persons adopted in Nebraska can make requests for adoption searches by contacting Vital Records for the appropriate forms and the Department of Health and Human Services central office to request a search.¹¹

ADOPTION SUBSIDIES See Also: **Adoption Assistance (also known as Adoption Subsidies)**

ADOPTION TAX CREDIT

Federal and State credits that reduce taxes paid by and/or increase refunds to parents who adopt children. The amount may depend on family income, adoption situation, other adoption benefits, and the specific rules in effect for the year of adoption. Families with special needs adoptions (that is, adoptions from foster care with adoption assistance benefits) can take the Federal adoption tax credit even if they had no adoption expenses.⁸

ADOPTION TRIAD

The three types of individuals involved in any adoption: the birth parent(s), the adoptive parent(s), and the adopted child or adult. The adoption triad may also be referred to as the "adoption triangle," the "adoption circle," or the "adoption constellation."⁸

ADOPTION WITH EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION 🗨️ See Also: **Closed Adoption**

Adoptive situation in which a birth parent continues to receive information about or pictures of a child or both from the adoptive family after finalization; or the birth relative continues to provide information about or pictures of him/herself or both to the adoptive family after finalization. Note: Usually identifying information (names, address) is not shared with the birth relative. Mailing of such information can be sent through the Department when addresses are not shared.²

ADOPTIVE HOME STUDY

An Adoptive Home Study may be completed prior to the placement of a child or children in the foster home, if the child is available for adoption. Adoptive Home Studies shall only be completed by employees of Child Placing Agencies that also are licensed Adoption Agencies or Department of Health and Human Services Staff. Persons who are not currently foster parents and are seeking a pre-adoptive Home Study shall be referred to a private licensed adoption agency. If there is no private licensed adoption agency serving their area, the Department of Health and Human Services may complete a pre-adoptive Home Study for a fee of \$1100.⁴⁵

ADOPTIVE PARENTS

Although this term is often used to refer to both parents that are seeking to adopt, and parents that already have adopted, it is probably more commonly used to describe parents that are seeking to adopt, although since many parents will adopt on more than one occasion, they could be both an adoptive parent who has already adopted, and an adoptive parent who is seeking to adopt. Once adoptive parents adopt their child, they become their child's legal parents and should just be referred to as parents.¹⁰

ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT See Also: **Pre-Adoptive Placement**

A type of placement that has not been finalized by a Decree of Adoption issued by a county or juvenile court.^{61, 64}

ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT OF AN INDIAN CHILD 🗨️ See Also: **Child Custody Proceeding (ICWA Specific Language)**

ADULT

An individual 19 years or older.^{61, 64}

ADULT ADOPTION

The adoption of a person over the age of majority. In Nebraska, a child who reaches the age of 19 years may be adopted as an adult. The adoptee must live with the adoptive parent(s) at least six months prior to their age of majority and the adoptee has no parents, their parents being deceased, having relinquished parental rights, or had their parental rights terminated by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.¹³

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES CENTRAL REGISTRY

A listing of substantiated allegations of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation.⁶³

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACE)

Refers to potentially traumatic events that can have a negative, lasting effect on an individual's health and well-being. Adverse childhood experiences can include physical, emotional, or sexual abuse to the death or incarceration of a parent or guardian.

AETNA BETTER HEALTH OF NEBRASKA

A health care company providing managed care services for Nebraska Medicaid Medical and Surgical Services in all 93 Nebraska counties.

AFFIDAVIT

This is a written statement of facts signed under penalty of perjury, often before a court clerk or notary public who administers the oath to the signing party, who is called the affiant or declarant. Affidavits are routinely required for the procurement of warrants and are used in some jurisdictions to initiate juvenile court proceedings. They may be admitted into evidence.^{42, 61, 64}

AFFIRMED

In the practice of the appellate courts, the decree or order is declared valid and will stand as rendered in the lower court.⁴

AFTERCARE

The control, supervision, and care exercised over youth who have been paroled. It also means the outpatient treatment program for persons who have completed inpatient substance abuse treatment.^{61, 64}

AGE OF MAJORITY

The age at which, by statute, an individual is considered an adult and responsible for his/her own care, support and actions.^{61, 64}

The legally defined age at which a person is considered an adult with all the attendant rights and responsibilities of adulthood. The age of majority is defined by state laws, which vary by state and is used in Article V of the ICPC law, "... reaches majority, becomes self-supporting or is discharged with the concurrence of the appropriate authority in the receiving state."⁶⁰

AGENCY SUBSTANTIATED

The Department's determination of child abuse or neglect against the subject of the report of child abuse or neglect was supported by a preponderance of the evidence and based upon an investigation pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 28-713.^{61, 64}

AGENCY-SUPPORTED FOSTER CARE (ASFC) See Also: ABFC (Agency Based Foster Care)

Out-of-home care in a foster family home recruited, trained, and supported on a 24-hour basis by a community-based agency with whom DHHS has a contract.¹⁴

AGGRAVATED CIRCUMSTANCES (FROM ASFA)

These are circumstances in which exceptions may be made in regard to reasonable efforts requirements. May include, but are not limited to: abandonment, torture, chronic abuse, sexual abuse, circumstances where the parent has committed murder or voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent, or has committed a felony assault that resulted in serious bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent, or where parental rights to another child were terminated involuntarily.⁹

AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN (ADC)

Program that provides financial assistance to families eligible based on income and need. Individuals eligible for ADC that are not qualified for an exemption are required to participate in Employment First (EF).

ALCOHOL-RELATED BIRTH DEFECTS (ARBD)

A newer but not yet common term for the structural problems in the heart, kidneys, lungs, or hearing as a result of prenatal exposure to alcohol.

ALCOHOL-RELATED NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER (ARND)

A newer but not yet common term for the neurological and behavioral effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol.

ALLEGATION

A charge or claim of fact in a petition or other pleading which must be proven if the petition or other pleading is to be found true.^{61, 64}

ALLEGATIONS UNDER THE ICWA

The Nebraska Court of Appeals has stated that this is a requirement in petitions seeking to place an Indian child in foster care or to terminate parental rights and in motions for temporary custody. Although not specifically stated by the Court of Appeals, these allegations include that the child may be an Indian child, that active efforts to provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs have been provided but proved unsuccessful, and that continued custody by the parent or Indian custodian is likely to result in serious emotional or physical damage to the child.⁵

ALLEGED FATHER See Also: **Putative Father**

The person named as the possible biological father of a child with no legal establishment of paternity. Also referred to as the alleged parent or putative father.¹²

AMENDED BIRTH CERTIFICATE

A term used to refer to the new birth certificate that is issued for an adopted child after an adoption becomes final, which shows the new name of the adopted child and the adoptive parents as the parents of the child, as though they are its biological parents. This new birth certificate is placed in the public records in place of the child's original birth certificate. The original birth certificate is then stored in a separate secure location that is not accessible to the public, and may be viewed only by court order.¹⁰

ANSELL-CASEY LIFE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

Casey Life Skills is a free practice tool and framework for working with youth in foster care. It assesses independent living skills and provides results instantly.

ANSWER

The formal written statement by a defendant responding to a civil complaint and setting forth the grounds for defense.⁴

ANSWERS4FAMILIES

A project of the Center on Children, Families, and the Law (CCFL) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, which is supported by funding from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Nebraska Department of Education. Its mission is to provide information, opportunities for dialogue, education, and support to Nebraskans with special needs and their families, by developing and providing Internet resources.

ANXIETY DISORDERS

Psychological conditions that cause children and youth to feel excessively frightened, distressed, and uneasy during situations in which most others would not experience such symptoms. Anxiety disorders can lead to poor school attendance, low self-esteem, deficient interpersonal skills, alcohol abuse, and adjustment difficulty.⁹

APNEA

Temporary cessation of breathing.⁹

APPEAL

A request made after a trial, asking another court (usually the court of appeals) to decide whether the trial was conducted properly. To make such a request is "to appeal" or "to take an appeal." One who appeals is called the appellant.⁴

APPELLATE

About appeals; an appellate court has the power to review the judgment of another lower court or tribunal.⁴

APPLA

Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) is a permanency objective for youth age 16 and older who remain in foster, who are in a permanent living arraignment with a foster parent, relative or a kinship caregiver and there is a commitment on the part of all parties involved the youth will remain in the placement until the youth reached age of majority or chooses to live independently.

APPROVAL STUDY

A process which includes results of a home visit, a Child Protective Services check, a law enforcement check, and responses from references completed by the Department of a relative or person known to a child prior to placement occurring.^{61, 64}

APPROVED INFORMAL LIVING ARRANGEMENT (AILA) See Also: Informal Living Arrangement

A term used in NFOCUS to identify that the parent has made arrangements prior to or after DCFS involvement for a temporary and alternative place for their child to reside until child safety can be managed in the parental home. Informal Living Arrangements should be for a temporary period of time that is agreed upon by the parent and temporary alternative caregiver.^{42, 61, 64}

APPROVED PLACEMENT

In regards to ICPC, the receiving state Compact authority has determined that "the proposed placement does not appear to be contrary to the interests of the child."⁶⁰

ARRAIGNMENT

A proceeding in which an individual who is accused of committing a crime is brought into court, told of the charges, and asked to plead guilty or not guilty.

ARSATP

Adolescent Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program

ASAM PLACEMENT CRITERIA

These are criteria published by the American Society of Addiction Medicine defining the levels of care appropriate for the treatment of substance abuse. Nebraska Medicaid and Nebraska Behavioral Health Services use ASAM criteria to guide services determinations.

ASSESSING

The process of gathering, evaluating, and analyzing information to facilitate further decision making or to make a determination or diagnosis.

ASSESSMENT OF PLACEMENT SAFETY AND SUITABILITY

An SDM tool which assesses safety of children placed in licensed foster homes or relative placements. It is to be completed as soon as becoming aware of a concern or safety threat in a foster home/relative placement, and must be documented within 24 hours upon completing the assessment.³

ATTACHMENT

A deep emotional connection, or bond, that forms between two people. In the context of infant development, an attachment bond has several key elements: (1) an attachment bond is an enduring emotional relationship with a specific person; (2) the relationship brings safety, comfort, soothing, and pleasure; (3) loss or threat of loss of the person evokes intense distress.¹⁵
Attachment may be expressed differently from culture to culture.

ATTENDING

A non-directive listening technique that refers primarily to eye contact and body language but also includes following a client verbally.⁹

Body language (e.g., eye contact and body posture) that indicates listening and focus on the speaker; also includes verbal following. Attending may be impacted by culture.

ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER (ADD)

An older term referring to individuals with the predominantly inattentive form of ADHD.

ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD)

A term in the DSM-5 referring to individuals who demonstrate a persistent pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity-impulsivity that is more frequently displayed and more severe than is typically observed in individuals at a comparable level of development.

AXONAL INJURY

A brain injury in which the axon (single nerve-cell projection) is stretched and cut by sudden acceleration, deceleration, or rotational force to the head, as in shaking a baby.⁹

B**BAIL**

Security (usually in the form of money) given for the release of a criminal defendant or witness from legal custody, to secure his/her appearance in court on the day and time appointed.⁴

BATTERED CHILD SYNDROME

A medical condition, primarily of infants and young children, in which there is evidence of repeatedly inflicted injury to the nervous, skin, or skeletal system. Frequently the history, as given by the caregiver, does not adequately explain the nature of occurrence of the injuries.⁹

BEGINNING OF FOSTER CARE

The first 60 days after placement in out-of-home care.^{61, 64}

BEHAVIORAL ACCOUNTABILITY MEETING

An informal meeting to review the behavior of any committed juvenile offender who is not abiding by the Conditions of Liberty (COL) agreement. (390 N.A.C. 8-006) Attendees at the meeting typically include the youth and his/her family, the assigned Juvenile Services Officer, a hearing officer, and other interested parties (including service providers).

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Also known as the Division of Behavioral Health in the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services. As the designated single state mental health and substance use authority, the Division administers, provides funding and oversight for a community-based prevention, treatment and recovery support system. The Division is charged to plan, organize, coordinate and budget for a statewide system of care for individuals and families that need public mental health and substance use disorder services.

BENCH TRIAL

Trial without a jury in which a judge decides the facts.⁴

BEST INTEREST

Best Interest of the Indian child includes:

1. Practices are in compliance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act, and other applicable laws that are designed to prevent the Indian child's voluntary or involuntary out-of-home placement, and
2. Placing the child in a foster home, adoptive placement or other type of custodial placement that reflects the unique values of the Indian child's tribal culture and is best able to assist the child in establishing, developing, and maintaining a political, cultural, and social relationship with the Indian child's tribe or tribes and tribal community when an out-of-home placement is necessary.⁶⁵

BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT

The highest standard of proof, most often used in criminal cases. The evidence must, by virtue of their probative force, prove guilt. This standard of proof is applied when a court terminates the parental rights of Indian and non-Indian parents to an Indian child.^{61, 64}

BIPOLAR DISORDER

A mental illness in which mood and affect are maladaptive. Can be categorized as manic, depressive, and mixed (alternating between mania and depression).⁹

BIRTH FAMILY/BIOLOGICAL FAMILY

The group of people who are biologically related to you. Only referred to as birth or biological family AFTER the child is adopted by another family.

BIRTH PARENT

Refers to a biological parent, either mother or father, after her/his parental rights have been relinquished or terminated.

BLACK BOX WARNING

A warning required by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) to be on the package materials for certain drugs when especially dangerous side effects have been seen. For example, most antidepressants require a black box warning about the possibility of increased suicidal thoughts or behaviors, and many stimulants require a warning about the possibility of sudden heart problems that can cause death.

BOND

A relationship between two people. It is sometimes used to refer to the special relationship that forms between an infant and his or her parent.¹⁵

BONDING

The process of forming an attachment. It is also used to refer to any activity, action, or behavior that helps establish or maintain a relationship.¹⁵

BRIDGE ORDER

A Court order in which jurisdiction over the custody, physical care, and visitation of a juvenile is transferred from Juvenile Court to District Court in order for the Juvenile Court to terminate its jurisdiction over the juvenile and close the case.

BRIDGE TO INDEPENDENCE

Bridge to Independence is a voluntary program that provides support for people between the ages of 19-21 as they go from foster care to adulthood.

BRIEF

A written statement submitted by the lawyer for either side in a case that explains to the judges why they should decide the case or a particular part of a case in favor of that lawyer's client.⁴

BRING UP NEBRASKA

Bring Up Nebraska [1] is a statewide prevention initiative designed to give community partners the ability to develop long-term plans using the latest strategies to prevent life's challenges from becoming a crisis for many Nebraska families and children. The Family First and Bring Up Nebraska initiatives align to create a comprehensive approach to supporting the well-being of children and families.¹

BURDEN OF PROOF

The legal burden of producing evidence or persuading the fact finder within the legal system.⁹

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA)

Indian Affairs (IA) is the oldest bureau of the United States Department of the Interior. Established in 1824, IA currently provides services (directly or through contracts, grants, or compacts) to approximately 1.7 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. There are 562 federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives in the United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is responsible for the administration and management of 66 million acres of land held in trust by the United States for American Indian, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives.¹⁷

BURNOUT

A term that has to do with the stress and frustration caused by the workplace: having poor pay, unrealistic demands, heavy workload, heavy shifts, poor management, and inadequate supervision.¹⁸

C

CALIFORNIA EVIDENCE-BASED CLEARINGHOUSE

A child welfare clearing house that provides information and resources for Child Welfare Professionals, whose mission is to advance the effective implementation of evidence-based practices for children and families involved with the child welfare system.

Candidacy: a child who is at imminent risk of entering foster care, but can remain safely in his or her home or an Approved Informal Living Arrangement as long as prevention services are in place to prevent the youth from entering foster.

This includes:

1. A child who is residing in a family home accepted for assessment, with an active, on-going case, including Court, non-Court, and Alternative Response involved youth;
2. A child who was previously in out-of-home care but has been reunified with his/her parent/caregiver.
3. A child with a 3c case filed in Juvenile Court; this is a child found to be "mentally ill and dangerous" as defined by Nebraska Revised Statute 43-247 (3)(C);
4. A pre-natal infant and/or child(ren) of an otherwise pregnant/parenting foster youth in foster care (including placed in Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) or participating in the Bridge to Independence program);
5. A child whose adoption or guardianship is at risk of disruption or dissolution that would result in foster care placement.
6. A child with extraordinary needs and whose parents/caretakers are unable to secure assistance for them; and,
7. Youth involved with Juvenile Probation and living in the parental/caretaker home.

CAPITAL OFFENSE

A crime punishable by death.⁴

CARE CONCERNS

A list of critical concerns that must be assessed by every worker in every investigation of alleged abuse and neglect in a placement. These are concerns with the placement that are not safety, but rather overall concerns of behaviors by the placement provider.³

Care concerns are circumstances that do not diminish child safety, but that may indicate that a placement change should be considered if the concern cannot be addressed through a plan.⁵⁴

CAREGIVER

A parent or guardian, or in some cases, other adult in the household who provides care and supervision for the child. The primary caregiver provides the most child care. The primary caregiver is considered to provide at least 51% of care. The secondary caregiver is the other legal parent or another adult in the household who cares for the children.^{61, 64}

In regards to Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, a foster parent (s) or designated child caring agency staff.⁶⁶

CASE AIDE

A state employee within the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) who provides paraprofessional and clerical support to direct services staff, including CFS Specialists.

CASE CLOSURE

1) safety and risk does not rise to the need for court intervention; or the children are safe and the risk is low to moderate; or the family is unable to be located or 2) decision and process on the successful achievement of goals and outcomes of a child/family that eliminate the need for services and supervision. Case closure means that DHHS involvement with a young adult through the Bridge to Independence Program is terminated. This can be done through the young adult's own request for closure, the young adult reaching the age of 21 or Department's request for termination of services.⁴³

CASE FILE

Official record containing information regarding the child and family. The case manager maintains a case file for each child, youth, or family on his/her case load.

CASE HISTORY

Information concerning an individual, their family and environment that includes social, medical, psychological and educational history and any other additional information that may be useful in determining appropriate placement (i.e. Court Report, Safety Assessment).⁶⁰

CASE LAW

The law as laid down in cases that have been determined in the decisions of the courts.⁴

CASE MANAGEMENT

Once the family case plan has been developed, the case manager will provide or arrange for services identified in the plan to assist family members in achieving their family case plan goals and tasks. Case management not only includes initiation of services but also monitoring and coordinating services and continuously assessing risk, assessing the services themselves, matching appropriate services to the family's needs and phase out of services. The case plan will be modified or changed when appropriate.²

CASE MANAGER

A person assigned to work with a child and/or their family who is employed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

CASE PLAN

A written agreement developed by the CFS Specialist along with the family members and other team members that identifies the agreed upon goals and objectives. Case Plans are developed for both court involved and non-court involved families.^{61, 64}

A comprehensive individualized program of action for a child and his/her family establishing specific goals and objectives, and deadlines for meeting these goals and objectives.⁶⁰

CASE PLANNING

The family-centered strengths-based process of engaging family members to ensure services are tailored to best address the family's strengths and needs. For Indian children/youth, case planning includes contacting and involving the tribe at the earliest opportunity.^{61, 64}

CASE TRANSFER MEETING

The Case Transfer meeting will be held to verify with the receiving CFS Specialist that the information in N-FOCUS is updated and complete and the case file is current. The transferring CFS Specialist will provide the receiving CFS Specialist with any additional information needed to ensure child safety; and will determine the actual date of the case transfer.

CENTER ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND THE LAW (CCFL)

A part of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Established in 1987 as a home for interdisciplinary research, teaching, and public service on issues related to child and family policy and services. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services contracts with CCFL to provide competency-based case management training to Protection & Safety staff.

CENTRAL REGISTRY

A listing of substantiated allegations of child abuse or neglect.⁶³

The list of records maintained by the Department containing records of all reports of child abuse or neglect opened for investigation which have been classified as Court Substantiated or Agency Substantiated.^{61, 64}

CHAMBERS

A judge's office.

CHILD

An individual who by reason of minority, is legally subject to parental, guardianship, or similar control. In the state of Nebraska child means an individual less than 19 years of age.^{61, 64}

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (CAN) See Also: Child/Youth Maltreatment , Maltreatment

Abuse and neglect are types of child maltreatment.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT HOTLINE

A 24-hour statewide toll-free telephone number established to receive information about cases of suspected child or adult abuse and neglect. The same number is also used to field calls about adult or elder abuse.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT (CAPTA)

A federal program supplying funding to states to provide prevention and treatment services that address child abuse. CAPTA was amended to require states to develop procedures to make a timely referral of every child under three years of age who has substantiated abuse or neglect to the Early Childhood Special Education program, or in Nebraska, the Early Development Network. (P.L. 93-247)

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)

A safe, child-focused facility where children can tell their story once to a trained interviewer who knows the right questions to ask in a way that does not re-traumatize the child. Then, a team that includes medical professionals, law enforcement, mental health, prosecution, child protective services, victim advocacy, and other professionals make decisions together about how to help the child based on the interview. CACs often offer therapy and medical exams, plus courtroom preparation, victim advocacy, case management, and other services. This is called the multidisciplinary team (MDT) response and is a core part of the work of CACs.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PLAN

The Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) is a plan that contains the state's vision and goals to strengthen its child welfare system. It outlines the state's strategies and plans over five years to manage programs and services to promote safety, permanency and well-being of children and families.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR)

Federal review process initiated in 2000 by the United States Department of Health and Human Services to evaluate the achievement of outcomes related to safety, permanency and well-being in the child welfare systems of all 50 states. The review process is ongoing.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) OUTCOMES

The outcomes identified by the federal government to address issues related to safety, permanency, and well-being.¹⁹

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST (CFSS)

The case manager, initial assessment or ongoing case manager assigned to work with a child or their family who is employed by the Department of Health and Human Services or an agency with a contract with the Department of Health & Human Services.^{61, 64}

CHILD CARE (CC)

Service to a family to provide care of children when the parents are unavailable; the service is provided either in the home or in a child care center.

CHILD CARING AGENCY

An agency incorporated to provide care for children in residential settings maintained by the organization for that purpose.^{61, 64}

CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING (ICWA SPECIFIC LANGUAGE) See Also: Pre-Adoptive Placement , Termination Of Parental Rights (TPR) , Adoptive Placement of an Indian Child

Child custody proceeding for an Indian child means and includes:

1. "Foster care placement" means any action removing an Indian child from its parent or Indian custodian for temporary or emergency placement in a foster home or institution or the home of a guardian or conservator where the parent or Indian custodian cannot have the child returned upon demand, but where parental rights have not been terminated;
2. "Termination of parental rights" means any action resulting in the termination of the parent-child relationship;

3. "Preadoptive placement" means the temporary placement of an Indian child in a foster home or institution after the termination of parental rights, but prior to or in lieu of adoptive placement;
4. "Adoptive placement" means the permanent placement of an Indian child for adoption, including any action resulting in a final decree of adoption; and
5. "Voluntary foster care placement" means a non-court-involved proceeding in which the department or the state is facilitating a voluntary foster care placement or in-home services to families at risk of entering the foster care system. **This includes cases that are identified as non-court involved and Alternative Response.** An Indian child, parent, or tribe involved in a voluntary foster care placement shall only be provided protections as provided in Neb. Rev. Statute 43-1505(4) and sections 43-1506 and 43-1508.^{65, 61, 64}

CHILD PLACING AGENCY

An organization authorized by its articles of incorporation to place children with a foster family or in adoptive homes.^{61, 64}

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Any visual depiction (live performance or photographic representation) and includes undeveloped film or video tape or data stored on a computer disk or by other electronic means which is capable of conversion into a visual image and also includes any photograph, film, video, picture, digital image or computer-displayed image, video or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means of an individual under 18 years of age of sexually explicit conduct.^{61, 64}

CHILD SUPPORT

Support (typically financial support) ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction on behalf of a minor child. (479 N.A.C. 1-004)

CHILD VULNERABILITIES

The vulnerability of each child is considered throughout the SDM assessments. The following conditions may result in child's inability to protect themselves; Age 6 and Under, Significant diagnosed medical or mental disorder that significantly impairs ability to protect self, isolated or less visible in the community, extreme allegiance to the alleged perpetrator, diminished developmental/cognitive capacity, diminished physical capacity, prior history of abuse/neglect as a victim that impacts the child's ability to protect self.³

CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION SYSTEM (CWIS)

CWIS is an integrated part of the computerized Nebraska Family Online Client User System (N-FOCUS). CWIS enables case/records management for Child Welfare and Juvenile Services clients and services.

CHILD WELFARE, JUVENILE & ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Works in partnership with other groups to make sure that the abused, neglected, dependent, or delinquent populations that it serves are: safe from harm or maltreatment; in a permanent healthy nurturing and caring environment; with a stable family; helped to heal from the harmful effects on their lives; and are no longer threats to their community.²⁰

CHILD/YOUTH MALTREATMENT See Also: **Maltreatment , Child Abuse and Neglect (CA/N)**

CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO SUPPORT (CHARTS)

The name of a statewide computer system in Nebraska that supports centralized collection and disbursement of child support.

CIRCLE OF SECURITY PARENTING CLASS

An evidence-based parenting education program designed to enhance attachment between parents/caregivers and children. Caregivers reflect on how they were parented as a child and how that may influence their parenting. The class focuses on parents/caregivers of younger children, but can be used with parents/ caregivers of teens as well.

CIRCLES OF SAFETY

A strategy for identifying a family's safety network - used in Safety Organized Practice (SOP).

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

Proof of circumstances that may imply another fact. For example, proof that a parent kept a broken appliance cord may connect the parent to infliction of uniquely corresponding marks on a child's body.⁹

CLASSIFICATION

A risk/needs assessment process to (1) determine a youth's risk to reoffend; (2) determine the level of supervision to the risk level of the youth; (3) identify placement, treatment, and services; (4) link the youth's risk/needs factors into the development of a case plan; and (5) provide on-going review of the youth's case plan and level of supervision.²

CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE

The amount of evidence needed to convince ordinarily prudent minded people that the evidence is strongly in favor of one of the parties. It is more than a preponderance of evidence. Clear and convincing evidence is the standard of proof needed to place an Indian child in foster care.^{61, 64}

CLERK OF THE COURT

An officer appointed by the court to work with the chief judge in overseeing the court's administration, especially to assist in managing the flow of cases through the court and to maintain court records.⁴

CLOSED ADOPTION See Also: **Adoption with Exchange of Information**

An adoptive situation in which there is no contact or exchange of information between birth relatives(s) and adoptive parent(s) after a decree of adoption.^{61, 64}

CLOSED FRACTURE

A fracture of the bone with no skin wound.⁹

CLOSED QUESTION

A question which prompts a person to give a one-word answer (e.g. yes or no). Restricts a person's response.⁹

COINING

Coining, or cao gio (pronounced phonetically as gow yaw), is an alternative form of medicine most commonly practiced in Southeast Asia. Warmed oil is applied to the child's skin, which is then rubbed with a coin or a spoon in a linear fashion, usually on the cheek or back. Repetitive rubbing leads to linear bruises and welts.⁹

As it is typically done, it is not considered abusive because it is not an unpleasant experience for the recipient.

COLLATERAL CONTACTS

Individuals (often professionals, family, and friends) who have contact with the child and/or the child's family, such as medical personnel, teachers, neighbors, and clergy, and can provide information about the child's history and/or ongoing condition or situation.⁹

COMMITMENT

An order by the court committing a child to the care and custody of the Department of Health and Human Services.^{61, 64}

COMMITMENT DATE

A date that a child is made a Department ward via court order or voluntary relinquishment.^{61, 64}

COMMON LAW

The legal system that originated in England and is now in use in the United States. It is based on judicial decisions rather than legislative action.⁴

COMMUNITY SAFETY

When communities are free from law violations committed by juveniles 0 – 18 years of age as evidenced by youth engagement in positive youth development activities and reduced recidivism.²

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

The control, supervision, and care exercised over youth committed to the Office of Juvenile Services when a commitment to the level of treatment of a Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center has *not* been ordered by the court.²

COMMUNITY TREATMENT AIDE (CTA) SERVICES

Community Treatment Aide (CTA) services are supportive and psychoeducational interventions designed to assist the client and parents or primary caregivers to learn and rehearse the specific strategies and techniques that can decrease the severity of, or eliminate, symptoms and behaviors associated with the client's mental illness that create significant impairments in functioning. The client's CTA plan shall be a part of the comprehensive treatment plan developed by the client's outpatient psychotherapy provider and be developed in close collaboration with the therapy provider. The CTA interventions, the client's progress and modifications to the CTA plan shall be reviewed and approved by the outpatient therapist and shall be documented by the CTA and the therapist. (NAC 32-002.19)

COMPASS

An acronym that stands for Children's Outcomes Measured in Protection and Safety Statistics. COMPASS presents child welfare statistics and outcome measures for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services / Division of Children and Family Services. COMPASS data can be viewed on the Department's website.

COMPASSION FATIGUE

A term that refers to the profound emotional and physical erosion that takes place when helpers are unable to refuel and regenerate.¹⁸

COMPLAINT

A written statement by a plaintiff stating the wrongs allegedly committed by the defendant.⁴

COMPLICATING FACTORS

Anything that further complicates the case; often are worrisome but do not rise to the level of harm or danger; may include risk - used in Safety Organized Practice (SOP).

COMPOUND FRACTURE

An open fracture; a fracture in which the bone is broken and protruding through the skin.

Compare to definition for CLOSED FRACTURE.⁹

CONCURRENCE TO DISCHARGE

When the receiving ICPC office gives the sending agency written permission to terminate supervision and relinquish jurisdiction of its case pursuant to Article V leaving the custody, supervision and care of the child with the placement resource.⁶⁰

CONCURRENT PLANNING

The process of developing and implementing plans simultaneously to reach the primary permanency objective and an alternative objective. Concurrent planning may occur at any time in a case regardless of adjudication, including status offense and delinquency.^{61, 64}

CONDITIONALLY SAFE

One or more safety threats are present, and protective safety interventions have been identified and agreed to by caregiver(s). An in-home safety plan is required.^{61, 64}

CONDITIONS OF LIBERTY AGREEMENT (COL)

A behavioral contract that identifies the rules and special conditions with which the youth must comply during community supervision. The agreement supports the goals of the case plan.²

CONFRONTATION

When engaged in an interview, the act of pointing out contradictions between what a person says and what a person does or between two different things a person has said.⁹

Also refers to the legal right to confront adverse witnesses, as guaranteed by the 6th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.⁴

CONNECTED YOUTH INITIATIVE

Communities and collaborations across rural Nebraska to help provide services, supports and leadership opportunities to unconnected youth and young adults from ages 14-26 with experience in foster care, juvenile justice systems, those struggling with homelessness and who are disconnected from a family resource.

CONSTRUCTIVE REMOVAL

A paper or nonphysical removal of a child from the home. This may be used when a child lives with an interim relative caretaker between the time s/he lives with the custodial parent and enters foster care, but the court removal is from the parent's home. (479 N.A.C. 1-004) Constructive removal may facilitate use of IV-E funding for temporary placement with a relative.

CONSULTATION

Used to assure staff, families, and the public of consistent application of Department policy and consideration of as many factors and ramifications as possible when critical decisions are made. (390 N.A.C. 2-001)

CONSULTATION POINTS

Critical decisions and/or critical steps in the case management process which require consultation with the team members. This involves seeking the opinion and input of designated others.

CONTACT STANDARDS

The standards by which the Structured Decision Making model instructs the frequency of contacts made between the CFSS and the family depending on the risk level of the family.³

CONTINUANCE

The postponement of a hearing, trial or other scheduled court proceeding, at the request of one or both parties, or by the judge without consulting them.^{61, 64}

CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (CQI)

Continuous quality improvement, or CQI, is a management philosophy that organizations use to reduce waste, increase efficiency, and increase internal (meaning, employees) and external (meaning, customer) satisfaction. It is an ongoing process that evaluates how an organization works and ways to improve its processes. Nebraska's CQI program is designed to enable both a qualitative and quantitative review process, providing support to continually improve case management practices and outcomes.

CONTRACT

An agreement between two or more persons that creates an obligation to do or not to do a particular thing.⁴

CONVICTION

The finding that an individual is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of committing a crime.^{61, 64}

COOPERATIVE SUPERVISION

The delivery of services given by a receiving state and in turn reported quarterly (or as needed) to the sending state under Interstate Compact.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Physical punishment inflicted directly on the body.⁹

CORROBORATE

Working with law enforcement and others to validate the evidence of child maltreatment or criminal behavior against a parent (caregiver) or juvenile.

COUNSEL

Legal advice; a term used to refer to lawyers in a case.⁴

COUNTY ATTORNEY

In Nebraska an elected county official who has responsibility to prosecute violations of state criminal laws in their counties, as well as civil responsibility to advise and represent the county in civil matters. County attorneys also have the responsibility to file and prosecute juvenile court cases in the interests of children, among other duties.⁴

COURT

Government entity authorized to resolve legal disputes. Judges sometimes use "court" to refer to themselves in the third person, as in "the court has read the briefs."⁴

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA)

A lay volunteer appointed by the court to assist in representing the child's interest in a juvenile court proceeding.^{61, 64}

COURT APPROVED OPEN ADOPTION (ALSO CALLED LEGALLY BINDING OPEN ADOPTION)

The birth and prospective adoptive parents agree to terms of contact or communication or both by way of a signed written agreement presented to the county or juvenile court where the adoption is finalized. That court may enter an order approving the agreement for openness if it determines it would be in the best interest of the prospective adoptee. The Department and the guardian ad litem will make recommendations

regarding the agreement. The signed agreement becomes a legally binding contract. A contract approved by the court may only be done with the birth parents and not extended family.¹³

COURT INVOLVED CASE

A case in which the County Attorney has filed a petition in the interest of the child and the court has assigned responsibility of the child to DHHS or the court has taken jurisdiction of the child and family to address identified safety threats, risk of harm to the child or community safety.^{61, 64}

COURT JURISDICTION ONLY CASES

The sending court has an open abuse, neglect or dependency case that establishes court jurisdiction with the authority to supervise and/or remove and place the child for whom the court has not taken guardianship or legal custody.⁶⁰

COURT ORDER

A document signed by a judge and entered in a court of competent jurisdiction. (479 N.A.C. 1-004)

COURT PENDING

A criminal complaint, indictment, or information or a juvenile petition under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-247(3)(a) has been filed in District Court, County Court, or separate Juvenile Court, and that the allegations of the complaint, indictment, information, or juvenile petition relate or pertain to the same subject matter as the report of abuse or neglect.^{61, 64}

COURT REPORT

A written document for the Court that contains information about the child and the family and the progress towards achieving the goals in the case plan, which is submitted to the Court.^{61, 64}

In regards to Bridge to Independence, Court Report means a written document that contains information about the young adult and the progress towards achieving the goals in the transitional living proposal.⁴³

COURT REPORTER

A person who makes a word-for-word record of what is said in court and produces a transcript of the proceedings upon request.⁴

COURT-SUBSTANTIATED

A district court, county court, or separate juvenile court has entered a judgment of guilty on a criminal complaint, indictment, or information, or an adjudication of jurisdiction on a juvenile petition pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-247(3) (a), and the judgment or adjudication relates or pertains to the same subject matter as the report of abuse or neglect.^{61, 64}

COURTESY ASSESSMENT

An assessment completed at the request of another state jurisdiction without continuing involvement of DHHS.^{61, 64}

COURTESY CHECK

Process that does not involve the ICPC, used by a sending court to check the home of a parent from whom the child was not removed.⁶⁰

COURTESY SUPERVISION

A cooperative arrangement between two or more counties, states or tribes to provide, or continue to provide, services to children and their families who are the subject of a dispositional order.^{61, 64}

In regards to ICPC, monitoring of the child and the child's living situation by the receiving state after a child has been placed in a receiving state pursuant to a provisional approval or an approved placement under Article III (d) of the ICPC, or pursuant to a child's relocation to a receiving state in accordance with

Regulation No.1 of the ICPC.⁶⁰

CREDIBILITY

That quality in a witness that renders testimony worthy of belief; for example, credible evidence provided is worthy of belief.⁹

CRIMINAL HISTORY

A county, state, or federal criminal history of conviction or pending indictment of a misdemeanor or felony.^{61, 64}

CRISIS INTERVENTION

Activities and involvement of child welfare and other professionals in a helping capacity at the point the family is in crisis. Moves family from emotional disorganization to rational problem solving through counseling and other resource acquisition.⁹

CROSS EXAMINATION

Generally, an adversary's examination of a witness after the witness has been examined by direct examination.⁹

CRUEL PUNISHMENT

Any type of discipline that results in injury, cuts, extreme bruising; withholding food, water, or required care, or requiring child to consume non-food items or inappropriate amounts of food, water or non-food items; a parent/caregivers' use of sadistic measures or weapons.^{61, 64}

CULTURAL HUMILITY

A term used in Safety Organized Practice (SOP). 1) The quality or condition of being humble; lack of pride; modesty. 2) The act of modesty or self-abasement; submission. A cultural humility perspective challenges us to learn from the people with whom we interact, reserve judgment, and bridge the cultural divide between our perspectives in order to facilitate well-being and promote improved quality of life.

CULTURAL PLAN

A written plan to ensure a life-long process of encouraging and fostering the Indian child's awareness and understanding of their Native American and tribal heritage and the development of a positive cultural identity. Key components of this plan include, but are not limited to, educating the child about his/her tribal history; initiating and maintaining connections and contact with extended family and other tribal members; exposing the child to positive Native American role models, literature, music, and art; recognizing and addressing racism at the child's current age and in the future, planning for the child to be a part of tribal events and ceremonies, etc.^{65, 61, 64}

CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS

Efforts made by workers to understand the unique experience and perspective of each individual, family, and community. Recognizing and valuing multiple and diverse world views and histories.

CULTURE

A stable pattern of beliefs, attitudes, values, and standards of behavior that is transmitted from generation to generation. Culture facilitates successful adaptation to the group and to the environment. It is dynamic, includes within itself group differences, and changes over time.⁹

CUPPING

A healing method described in Asian and Mexican cultures. The air in a cup is warmed and placed on the skin. A vacuum is created between the cup and the child's skin as the air cools, which leads to a bruise.⁹ As typically practiced it is not considered abusive because it is not an unpleasant experience for the recipient.

CUSTODIAL PARENT

The parent who has his/her child living in his/her home and has legal custody of the child.

CUSTODY

The right to or responsibility for a child's care and control, carrying with it the duty of providing food, shelter, medical care, education and discipline.^{61, 64}

D

DAMAGES

Money paid by defendants to successful plaintiffs in civil cases to compensate the plaintiffs for their injuries.⁴

DANGER

Current and/or future credible worries/concerns about actions or inactions the caregiver may take in the future that will harm or impact the child - used in Safety Organized Practice (SOP).

DANGER STATEMENT

Simple behavioral statements of the specific worry we have about this child now and in the future - used in Safety Organized Practice (SOP). The formula is: Who is worried -> Potential in/action of caregiver -> Potential impact on the child.

DEFAULT JUDGMENT

A judgment rendered because of the defendant's failure to answer or appear.⁴

DEFENDANT

In a civil suit, the person complained against; in a criminal case, the person accused of the crime.⁴

DENIAL

Refusing to accept or reducing the importance of a real circumstance because of its emotional implications; for example, responding to a worker's intervention by not cooperating, being preoccupied with other things, or stating an incident "just did not happen."

DEPARTMENT

Unless otherwise noted, a reference to the executive branch agency known as the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS).

DEPENDENCY 🗨️

A situation which occurs when there is a child whose parent is or will be unable to care for the child through no fault of the parent, when no maltreatment has been identified. The parent may be incapacitated or absent due to illness, death, incarceration, or otherwise unavoidably unable to provide care, the child has extraordinary mental health, emotional, or physical needs which the parent does not have the ability or capacity to meet.²

DEPENDENT CHILD 🗨️

A child whose parent is or will be unable to care for the child through no fault of the parent, when no maltreatment has been identified, The parent may be incapacitated or absent due to illness, death, incarceration, or otherwise unavoidably unable to provide care, the child has extraordinary mental health, emotional, or physical needs which the parent does not have the ability or capacity to meet.^{61, 64}
This includes children under the age of 18 identified as sex trafficking victims.²

DEPOSITION

An oral statement made before an officer authorized by law to administer oaths. Such statements are often taken to examine potential witnesses, to obtain discovery, or to be used later in trial.⁴

DEPRESSION

A serious medical/psychological disorder that can affect a person's mood, concentration, sleep, activity, appetite, social behavior, and feelings that lasts for a sustained period of time (i.e., more than two weeks). It can include persistent feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, inadequacy, and sadness.⁹

DETENTION

A secure setting (generally a locked facility) for housing juvenile offenders who cannot be safely maintained/managed in less restrictive community placements.

DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY

Either 1) a significant delay in the function of one or more of the following areas: cognitive development, physical development, communicative development, social or emotional development, adaptive behavior, or skills development; or 2) a diagnosed physical or medical condition that has a high probability of resulting in a substantial delay in function in one or more of such areas.²¹

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (DD)

Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas. These conditions begin during the developmental period, may impact day-to-day functioning, and usually last throughout a person's lifetime.

DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE

Activities that are generally accepted as suitable for children of the same chronological age or level of maturity or that are determined to be developmentally appropriate for a child, based on the development of cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities that are typical for an age or age group. In the case of a specific child, activities that are suitable for the child based on the developmental stages attained by the child with respect to the cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities of the child.⁶⁶

DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICE

Also known as DAP. A set of written guidelines published by the American NAEYC association for optimal practices for promoting child development that is both age appropriate and suitable for the child.

DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDERS (DSM)

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) is the handbook used by health care professionals in the United States and much of the world as the authoritative guide to the diagnosis of mental disorders.²²

DIF 🇲🇽

The Agency for Integral Family Development, the agency in Mexico charged with ensuring the welfare of Minors.²

DIRECT COMMITMENT 🇲🇽

A youth committed to the Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Juvenile Services for direct community supervision.²

DIRECT EVIDENCE

This applies to a witness who testifies from his/her sensory perceptions regarding facts to be proven.⁴

DISABLED INFANT 🗨️

An infant having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits or may limit in the future one or more major life activities. Major life activities include functions such as, but not limited to, breathing, seeing, hearing, walking, caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, learning and working.²

DISCHARGE

The termination of Department guardianship or custody of the child.^{61, 64}

DISCHARGED YOUTH

An individual who has been discharged as a ward of the court or NDHHS (or NDHHS – OJS). (479 N.A.C. 1-004)

DISCOVERY

Lawyers' examination, before trial, of facts and documents in possession of the opponents to help the lawyers prepare for trial.⁴

DISCRETIONARY OVERRIDES

The override applied by the CFSS worker to modify the final SDM decision based on individual case circumstances.³

DISPLACEMENT 🗨️

Placement of an adopted child in an out-of-home setting after the adoption has been finalized. Parental rights of the adoptive parent(s) remain intact.²

DISPOSITION

The court's determination of a case in which there is an issuance of a final order or opinion.^{61, 64}

DISPOSITIONAL HEARING

The hearing used for the purpose of determining what will occur with or by a child and/or parents who have been adjudicated within the juvenile court's jurisdiction. A dispositional hearing is when the juvenile court judge will order implementation of a treatment plan.^{61, 64}

DISPOSITIONAL REVIEW HEARING

A hearing, six months or less after the last dispositional hearing, to review the facts and circumstances of a case to determine if the rehabilitation plan for the case should be changed.

DISRUPTION 🗨️

Termination of the adoptive placement and the plan for adoption by a particular family prior to finalization of adoption.²

DISSOCIATION

The separation of a thought or feeling from consciousness; for example, when a sex abuse victim "pulls away" from the cognitive and emotional experience of the abuse. A most severe and extremely rare outcome of dissociation is the clinical diagnosis of multiple personality disorder.⁹

DISSOLUTION 🗨️

Legal termination of the adoptive parent(s)' parental rights or relinquishment by the adoptive parent(s) after the adoption has been finalized.²

DIVISION OF CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)

The Division of Children and Family Services include child welfare, adult protective services, economic assistance programs and the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers. The mission of the Division of CFS is to provide the least disruptive services when needed, for only as long as needed to give children the opportunity to succeed as adults, help the elderly and disabled live with dignity and respect and help families care for themselves; which will result in healthier families and safer, more prosperous communities.

DOCKET

A log containing brief entries of court proceedings.⁴

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Indirect and demonstrative evidence, in the form of writings, pictures, models, etc.

DOMAINS

Areas in the FSNA tool that the parents/caretakers and children in the household are being assessed on to identify their needs and strengths.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The establishment of control and fear in a relationship through the use of violence and other forms of abuse between spouses, persons living as spouses or adult members of the same household. The offender may use physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, economic oppression, isolation, threats, intimidation, and maltreatment of the children to control the other person. Relationships involving domestic violence may differ in terms of the severity of the abuse, but control is the primary goal of all offenders.^{61, 64}

DOMICILE 🗣️

Domicile is what determines the court that a juvenile case should be filed in. This is usually determined by where the child lives, and that usually means where the custodial parent lives. By federal law, domicile has a particular meaning for Indian Children.⁴

Domicile is the child's legal residence as defined by federal law. The domicile of a child follows that of the parent or legal guardian, even if the child has never been to that place. For example, if parents live on a reservation, but leave the reservation to give birth in a non-reservation hospital, the child is considered to be domiciled on the reservation.^{65, 5}

For ICWA, a domicile of an Indian child on or near the reservation requires that the tribal court assume responsibility for the child.⁴

DOPAMINE

The feel-good neurotransmitter - a chemical that ferries information between neurons. This important neurochemical boosts mood, motivation, and attention, and helps regulate movement, learning, and emotional responses.

DRUG ENDANGERED ENVIRONMENT

The child lives in or is exposed to an environment where controlled substances are manufactured, cultivated or distributed and as a result of that environment the child experiences or is at risk of experiencing physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or physical harm, including harm resulting or possibly resulting from neglect.³⁹

DRUG SCREENING AND TESTING (DST)

When drug testing is recommended as part of substance abuse treatment, drug testing should be arranged by the treatment provider and the individual.

DSM-IV

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Version IV

DUE PROCESS

The rights of a person involved in legal proceedings to be treated with fairness. These rights include the right to adequate notice in advance of hearing, the right to notice of allegations of misconduct, the right to assistance of a lawyer, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, and the right to refuse to give self-incriminating testimony.⁹

E

EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSTIC, AND TREATMENT (EPSDT)

EPSDT exam (also known as a "Health Check") is more extensive than a "well-child check" and must be requested specifically when making an appointment due to the additional time it takes to complete. Each EPSDT exam includes the following: health developmental history, comprehensive unclothed physical examination, immunizations, lab tests (as appropriate), environmental investigation (as needed), health education/anticipatory guidance, vision screen, hearing screen, and dental screen. Note: EPSDT is only available for children who are on Medicaid.³³

EARLY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (EDN), THE (IFSP) See Also: **Individualized Family Service Plan**

A state-wide system of grant funded non-profit organizations that works with the public schools to provide special education services and supports that are based on the needs of children birth to age three and their families. The Early Development Network is jointly administered by Nebraska's Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services.

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

A common name for the services delivered by the Early Development Network to qualified children from birth to three years of age.

ECOMAP

A diagram that depicts reciprocal influences between a person and his or her relations, relevant community entities, and environmental influences.⁹

When the ecomap has been completed a more holistic picture of the family begins to emerge. (It illustrates) what significant resources are available in the family's world; what resources or supports are nonexistent or in short supply; and the nature of the relationships between family and environment.¹⁹

ECZEMA

Allergic skin condition that causes reddened, dry areas on skin that may be mistaken for abuse.⁹

EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER (ETV)

Provides financial assistance for post-secondary training and education to youth who have aged out of foster care or who have left foster care after age 16 for kinship guardianship or adoption. Eligibility is age 17-26.²³

EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT

The failure of the parent or caregiver to access an appropriate educational program and assure regular attendance for a child age 6 or older, but younger than age 13, unless the parent/caregiver has complied with one of the exceptions listed in Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-201.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING/GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (EM/GPS)

An identified Safety and In-Home Service where: a) the contractor will install and maintain the equipment for the youth and in the youth's home as well as provide for tracking records and a tracking record archival, b) the contractor will respond to alerts for the EM/GPS immediately, and c) the contractor will notify the Probation Officer immediately if the equipment indicates removal by the youth or when youth is not located within maximum of two (2) hours of notification of noncompliance by the system.²⁴

ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP

An individual has been determined *by the tribe* that they are eligible to be a member of the tribe and can take the appropriate action to become a member and have access to any benefits provided to Indians by the United States government.⁶⁵

EMERGENCY (ICWA SPECIFIC LANGUAGE) 🗨️

Imminent physical damage or harm to an Indian child is likely to occur (necessitating immediate removal of an Indian child). If an emergency does not exist, an Indian child cannot be removed until after a court hearing in which a qualified expert witness testifies.^{65, 5}

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT AND LABOR (EMTALA)

Ensures public access to emergency services regardless of ability to pay. Section 1867 of the Social Security Act imposes specific obligations on Medicare-participating hospitals (almost all hospitals but military run) that offer emergency services to provide a medical screening examination for an emergency, including active labor, regardless of an individual's ability to pay. Hospitals are required to provide stabilizing treatment for patients with an emergency medical condition. If a hospital is unable to stabilize a patient within its capability an appropriate transfer should be implemented.

EMERGENCY PLACEMENT WITH RELATIVE OR KIN 🏠

An emergency exists when placement must occur immediately based on a safety threat identified in the family home that cannot be controlled with a safety plan, and a relative or kinship home is available and transitioning the youth to the relative or kin is determined to be in the child's best interests.²

EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE CUSTODY (EPC)

This occurs when a child is removed from a family by law enforcement to ensure the safety of the child. The child becomes a temporary ward of the Department and a court must enter an order continuing the custody or the child must go home.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

A short-term out-of-home service intended to support children, youths, and families experiencing a crisis situation that requires a break from the home.¹⁴

EMOTIONAL ABUSE See Also: Abuse

The parent/caregiver demonstrates a pattern of criticizing, rejecting, insulting, isolating, terrorizing, or humiliating the child, resulting in serious emotional or behavioral issues.^{61, 64}

EMOTIONAL NEGLECT See Also: Neglect

A parent/caregiver's pattern of failure to seek ongoing or emergency mental health services for a child who has suicidal, homicidal, or severe self-harming behaviors. Severe self-harming behaviors include cutting, burning, or other self-mutilation that requires medical treatment OR risk-taking behaviors likely to result in serious physical harm.^{61, 64}

EMPATHY

The ability to perceive accurately and sensitively the inner feelings of the client and communicate understanding of these feelings in language aligned to the client's experience of the moment.⁹

EMPLOYMENT FIRST (EF)

The name of Nebraska's welfare reform program which helps families achieve economic self-sufficiency through job training, education, and employment preparation.

Employment First assists people through the transition from welfare to the workforce.

EN BANC

"In the bench" or "full bench." Refers to court sessions with the entire membership of a court participating rather than the usual quorum. U.S. courts of appeals usually sit in panels of three judges, but may expand to a larger number in certain cases. They are then said to be sitting *en banc*.⁴

ENCOPRESIS

A condition in which older children (typically older than 5 years) regularly have stool or bowel movement accidents.

ENGAGEMENT

To effectively join with the family to establish common goals concerning child safety, permanency, and wellbeing.²⁵

ENROLLMENT (ICWA SPECIFIC LANGUAGE) See Also: Registration (ICWA Specific Language)

The formal written process of becoming listed on a tribe's register or rolls. This term is used interchangeably with registration, but it may or may not be the same as membership, depending upon the tribe's definitions of these terms. It is not necessary to be enrolled or registered with a tribe to be considered a member, but all persons who are enrolled or registered are members. Some tribes do not have enrollment, registration, or rolls.^{65, 5}

ENURESIS

Another word for bedwetting; this is involuntary urination while asleep after the age at which bladder control would normally be anticipated. The term is not applied to children younger than 5 years old.

ESCAPEE

A youth who has made an unauthorized flight from a facility to which he/she has been committed by the court or placed by lawful authority.^{61, 64}

EVIDENCE

Any sort of proof submitted to the court for the purpose of influencing the court's decision on a case.^{61, 64}

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE (EBP)

Generally refers to approaches to prevention or services that are validated by some form of documented scientific research, such as controlled clinical studies, but other methods of establishing evidence are considered valid as well. Evidenced based practice stands in contrast to approaches that are based on tradition, convention, belief, or anecdotal evidence.¹⁹

EX PARTE

A Latin phrase meaning from (by or for) one party. An ex parte decision is one decided by a judge without requiring all of the parties to be present.

EXPERT WITNESS See Also: **Qualified Expert Witness**

One who, by reason of specialized or advanced knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education regarding a subject may testify in the form of opinion or otherwise, in order to assist in the understanding of evidence or to determine a fact.⁹

EXPUNGEMENT REVIEW

The process for an individual whose name has been entered on the child and/or adult abuse central registry, to request that their name be removed.^{61, 64}

EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER  See Also: **Family**

Any member of the child's family, especially those who have relationships with the child. Although for a non-native child extended family members have no standing in the law (there is an exception for grandparent visitation in some instances), it is possible that an extended family member can petition the juvenile court to intervene in a juvenile court action if he or she can prove that the child's best interests require it. In addition, Department policy requires that extended family be considered for custody, and even as a permanency plan participant.⁴

Extended family member is defined by the law or custom of the Indian child's primary tribe or, in the absence of such laws or customs of the primary tribe, the law or custom of the Indian child's other tribes or, in the absence of such law or custom, a person who has reached the age of 18 and who is the Indian child's parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle, clan member, band member, sibling, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, niece or nephew, cousin, or step-parent.

For some tribes, extended family members may or may not be related by blood, such as clan or band members.^{65, 5}

F**FAILURE TO THRIVE (FTT)**

A serious medical condition in which a child's weight and motor development are significantly below average for his/her age. Usually, though, not always, found in children less than one year old, the syndrome may have an organic cause or it may be caused by severe emotional or physical neglect.^{61, 64}

FAMILY  See Also: **Extended Family Member**

A biological, adoptive or self-created unit of people residing together consisting of adult(s) and child(ren) with the adults(s) performing duties of parenthood for the child(ren). Persons within this unit share bonds, cultural practices and a significant relationship. Biological parents, siblings, and others with significant attachments to a child living outside of the home are included in the definition of a family.^{61, 64}

For Indian children, see also EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER.⁵

FAMILY CENTERED PRACTICE (FCP)**FAMILY CENTERED TREATMENT® (FCT)**

An evidence-based model of intensive in-home treatment services for youth and families using psychotherapy designed to reduce maltreatment, improve caretaking and coping skills, enhance family resiliency, develop healthy and nurturing relationships, and increase children's physical, mental, emotional, and educational well-being through family value changes.

FAMILY DYNAMICS

Interrelationships between and among individual family members.⁹

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES

An identified Safety and In-Home Service where the contractor agrees to meet with the family including the child, if age appropriate, to develop a family genogram and ecomap.²⁴

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION ACT (FFPSA)

Child welfare reform enacted into law on Feb 9, 2018, to help keep children safely with their families and avoid the traumatic experience of entering foster care, emphasizes the importance of children growing up in families and helps ensure children are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like setting appropriate to their special needs when foster care is needed. Also known as simply “Family First”.

FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING (FGC)

A decision-making process that encourages and broadens family inclusion and responsibility for safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Families are engaged and empowered to make decisions and develop plans that protect and nurture their children from further maltreatment.⁹

FAMILY PRESERVATION

The efforts being made to safely keep the family together. Family Preservation is also the permanency objective whenever a decision is made that indicates the child can be safely maintained in the home.^{61, 64}

FAMILY STRENGTH

Areas of a family's life where they exhibit power and decision making that is an asset to the family. Identified family strengths are used when developing safety interventions and strategies to achieve case plan goals.^{61, 64}

FAMILY STRENGTHS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT (FSNA)

The tool used in ongoing case management that drives the case plan. This tool helps to identify the family's strengths and needs which can then be built into the case plan.³

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

An identified Safety and In-Home Service that is utilized to provide skill development/acquisition to a child's parents or caretakers or to youth who are in need of skill development/acquisition to control their behaviors.²⁴

FAMILY TEAM

A group comprised of individuals selected by the family (including children), including, but not limited to family, friends, relatives, peers, providers, teachers, etc. who come together both formally and informally to form a circle of support around a person and/or family. Children must be involved in all family team meetings unless they are younger than age 9 or not developmentally appropriate to participate.^{61, 64}

FAMILY TEAM MEETING

A meeting that is convened for the purpose of creating, implementing, evaluating, and updating a Safety Plan and/or Case Plan that furthers an individual's/family's achievement of their goals and the child safety concerns. The team meeting must include the family (unless reunification is not the permanency goal), the Case Manager, and may include other formal and informal supports selected by the family (or others if the family is no longer involved).^{61, 64}

For Indian children, tribal ICWA Specialists from the child's tribe(s) are invited to attend family team meetings.⁵

FAMILY/PERSON CENTERED PRACTICE (F/PCP)

A process that is based on a core set of values, beliefs, and principles that recognize that families/young adult can and should contribute to all aspects of services through his/her/their active participation.^{42, 61}

FATALITY

A death of a child caused by suspected abuse, neglect or maltreatment.⁵¹

FBI/NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK

A check completed through the rolling or live scanning of a person's fingerprints for the purpose of a nationwide check of their criminal history.⁶³

FEDERAL CLEARINGHOUSE

The Title IV- E Prevention Services Clearinghouse was established by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct an objective and transparent review of research on programs and services intended to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements

The Title IV- E Prevention Services Clearinghouse was established by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct an objective and transparent review of research on programs and services intended to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements.

FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (FPL)

A family income level based upon number of family members that is used to determine eligibility for many governmental programs. The level is revised every year to account for inflation, and is separately determined for the 48 contiguous states, Alaska, and Hawaii.

FEDERAL QUESTION

Jurisdiction given to federal courts in cases involving the interpretation and application of the U.S. Constitution, acts of Congress, and treaties.⁴

FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBE 🗣️ See Also: **Indian Tribe**

Any Indian Tribe, band, nation or other organized group or community of Indians recognized as eligible for the services provided to Indians by the Secretary of the Interior because of their status as Indians, including any Alaska Native village.^{65, 5}

FELONY

A crime carrying a penalty of more than a year in prison.⁴

FETAL ALCOHOL EFFECTS (FAE)

A term applied to children who have been affected by alcohol before birth but who do not show effects in all three areas required for the diagnosis of fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS). This term has been replaced in most usage by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS (FASD) See Also: **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)**

A newer inclusive term that refers to the range of adverse effects to a fetus from exposure to alcohol during pregnancy. See also other terms applied to children with FASD including FAE, FAS, ARBD, and ARND.

FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME (FAS) See Also: **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)**

A condition in infants resulting from heavy and continual prenatal exposure to alcohol. This syndrome consists of affects in three areas: 1) growth retardation before and /or after birth, 2) central nervous system dysfunction, and 3) typical facial features including a) short or small eye openings; b) thin upper lip with smooth filtrum (the area between the upper lip and nose); and/or c) flat mid-face and cheekbones; and/or d) underdeveloped jaw area. Following birth, the infant may suffer from alcohol withdrawal.⁹

This term has been replaced in most usage by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

FICTIVE KIN

People not related by birth or marriage who have an emotionally-significant relationship with an individual.⁶

FILE

To place a paper in the official custody of the clerk of the court to enter into the files or records of a case.⁴

FINAL RISK LEVEL

The final risk level after overrides which may be low, moderate, high, or very high.³

FINALIZATION

The final legal step in the adoption process by which an adoption becomes permanent and binding. Finalization involves a court hearing during which the judge orders that the adoptive parents become the child's legal parents.⁸

FINALIZATION OF ADOPTION 📄

Issuance of a decree of adoption by the court in which the adoption petition was filed.²

FOOD STAMPS (FS)

Department of Agriculture farm subsidy program to help feed low income families. This program is now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

FOREIGN NATIONAL MINORS 📄

Any unmarried person who is under the age of eighteen and was born in a country other than the United States.²

FORENSIC INTERVIEW

An interview conducted for the purpose of collecting information on possible child abuse and neglect for use in legal proceedings.⁹

FORMAL RESOURCE PEOPLE/PARTICIPANTS/SUPPORTS

Individuals who participate as members of the Family Team due to their paid relationship with the child and family. Examples of this include foster parents, teachers, therapists, community treatment aides, family organization advocates (mentors paid to provide support who are not chosen by the family), and agency staff.^{61, 64}

FORMER WARD

Any person who was previously a ward of the state at some point during their lifetime.

FOSTER CARE (FC)

Engaged in the service of exercising 24-hour daily care, supervision, custody, or control over children, for compensations or hire, in lieu of the care of supervision normally exercised by parents in their own home. Foster care will not include casual care at irregular intervals or programs as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-1910. The Indian Child Welfare Act expands the definition of foster care to include guardianships and placements in which the parent or Indian custodian cannot have the child returned upon demand.^{61, 64}

FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENT

A financial payment made to or on behalf of a young adult to cover the cost of the young adult's basic needs. Foster care maintenance payments under Bridge to Independence shall remain at least at the rate determined by DHHS immediately prior to the young adult's exit from foster care.⁴³

FOSTER CARE PAYMENT DETERMINATION CHECKLIST (FCPAY)

The form used to determine the foster care payment for an individual child. The amount is based on the child's needs. (479 N.A.C. 1-004)

FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT

- a. all types of placements of juveniles described in Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-245 and 43-247,
- b. all types of placements of neglected, dependent, or delinquent children, including those made by the Department of Health and Human Services, by the court, by parents, or by third parties,
- c. all types of placements of children who have been voluntarily relinquished pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-106.01 to the department or any child-placing agency as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat, 71-1926 licensed by the department, and
- d. all types of placements that are considered to be a trial home visit, including those made directly by the department or office.^{61, 64}

FOSTER CARE PREVENTION PLAN (FCPP)

A written plan describing the goals, strategies and prevention services to be utilized in order to prevent a child from entering foster care.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE (FCRO)

A state governmental entity (separate from NDHHS) responsible for reviewing all cases of children in out-of-home placement every six months. This Office was created by LB998 of 2012 that eliminated the previous Foster Care Review Board (FCRB).

FOSTER FAMILY

The placement in which a child is residing other than with their biological parent(s) or legal guardians.^{61, 64}

FOSTER HOME (FH)

A private single-family living unit, under one roof, housing no more than six (6) children under the age of majority, including children related to the foster parent(s) by blood, marriage, or adoption, and any other child(ren) who may be living in the home. No more than four (4) of these children may be age 12 or younger. (Adapted from 395 NAC 3-001.10)

Sub-definitions:

- **Relative Foster Home:** A home where a child or children receive foster care and at least one of the primary caretakers is related to the child or children, or to a sibling of such child or children in his or her care by blood, marriage or adoption. Relative homes are not required to be licensed and may be approved by DHHS.
- **Kinship Foster Home:** A home where a child or children receive foster care and at least one of the primary caretakers has previously lived with or is a trusted adult that has a pre-existing, significant relationship with the child or children or is a sibling of such child or children. Kinship homes are not required to be licensed and may be approved by DHHS.
- **Licensed Foster Home:** A home where a child or children receive foster care that has met requirements found at 395 NAC Chapter 3. Requirements include foster parent pre-service and ongoing training, passing of background checks, ratios of children cared for, positive references and environmental requirements.
- **Licensed Relative Foster Home:** A home where a child or children receive foster care and at least one of the primary caretakers is related to the child or children, or to a sibling of such a child or children in his or her care by blood, marriage or adoption, and the relative foster home has met licensing requirements as outlined in 395 NAC Chapter 3. Some licensing requirements can be waived in order to license relatives, including maximum number of persons cared for, training and references.
- **Kinship Licensed Foster Home:** A home where a child or children receive foster care and at least one of the primary caretakers is related to the child of children, or to a sibling of such child or children in his or her care by blood, marriage or adoption. Kinship homes are not required to be

licensed and may be approved by DHHS.

- **ICPC (Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children) Foster Home:** A foster home located in Nebraska identified and approved to provide care to children being placed from another state. ICPC foster homes in Nebraska may be relatives, kinship, licensed or a combination and are determined based on the request and policies of the other state.³⁷

FOSTER PARENT

An adult who provides a home and manages and maintains a household which may be used for placement of children. (479 N.A.C. 1-004)

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS AND INCREASING ADOPTIONS ACT OF 2008

This federal law revises and extends guardianship and adoption assistance and incentives; mandates that all adult relatives of a child be notified when the child comes into the care of the state; provides supports for children leaving foster care in their later teens; allows exceptions for some non-safety foster care licensing standards; requires transition planning for children leaving foster care by aging out; allows short-term training for agency personnel, relative guardians, and court personnel; requires that states keep foster children in their “school of origin” and provide transportation costs; requires additional health oversight for foster children; requires states to make reasonable efforts to place siblings together, or to ensure frequent visitation among siblings; allows tribes to receive direct IV-E funding from the federal government; requires state to promote adoption of children with special needs; as well as other definitional and managerial matters.^{4, 5}

FULL OPEN-ADOPTION

Adoptive situation in which a birth relative continues to have contact with a child in the adoptive home, or adoptive families or families of siblings continue to have contact with each other, after finalization. The purpose of open adoption is maintenance of a relationship which is supportive of the child's emotional growth and well-being. Arrangements are made by mutual agreement of birth relative and adoptive parents, or between adoptive parents. Some open adoptions can be legally ordered by the court.²

FUNCTIONAL FAMILY THERAPY (FFT)

A family intervention program for youth with disruptive, externalizing problems. Target populations range from at-risk pre-adolescents to youth with moderate to severe problems such as conduct disorder, violent acting-out and substance abuse. FFT targets youth aged 11-18. FFT has been rated well-supported by the Federal Clearinghouse.

FUNNELING

A line of questioning where the interviewer starts with broader, open-ended, questions and moves to focused questions.^{4, 9}

FURLOUGH

A staff-approved short term stay in the community of a youth placed in a YRTC, for a legitimate purpose such as visiting his/her family during a major holiday.

G

GENOGRAM

A pictorial representation of a family tree that depicts the histories and relationships of family members across three generations. The information recorded on the genogram is collected during interviews with a family. For Indian children, the genogram must contain four generations as this information is used in providing legal notice and can be helpful in complying with the placement preferences of the Indian Child Welfare Acts.⁵

GOALS See Also: **Outcomes**

GOOD CAUSE

A term used to refer to a finding that must be made by the court in order to deviate from the placement preferences set out by ICWA. The burden to show there is good cause to deviate from the placement preferences must be met by clear and convincing evidence by the party urging that the preferences not be followed. N.R.S. § 43-1508(4)

GRADUATED SANCTIONS

Progressive disciplinary interventions in proportionate response to the misbehavior of juvenile offenders.

GRAND JURY

A body of citizens who listens to evidence of criminal allegations, which are presented by the government, and determines whether there is probable cause to believe the offense was committed. As it is used in federal criminal cases, "the government" refers to the lawyers of the U.S. attorney's office who are prosecuting the case.⁴

GREEN PHONE REFERRAL

A process in which Service Referrals are generated within NFOCUS to officially authorize and provide information for the referral of services for families or individuals. This is also called a Green Phone, which reflects the icon where service referrals are documented on N-FOCUS.

GREENSTICK FRACTURE

Incomplete fracture; fracture in which the compressed side of the bone is partially bent/bowed and other side is partially broken. Caused by compression or angulation.⁹

GROUP HOME (GH)

A home operated under the auspices of an organization that is responsible for providing social services, administration, direction, and control for the home and that is designed to provide 24-hour care for twelve or fewer foster children in a residential setting.^{61, 64}

GUARDIAN

An individual appointed by a court who has the powers and responsibilities of a parent. The guardian is empowered to facilitate education, authorize medical care, consent to marriage or adoption of the ward. Under Nebraska law a guardian is not legally required to provide financial support for the ward and is not liable for acts of the ward.^{61, 64}

GUARDIAN AD LITEM (GAL)

An attorney appointed by the court to act in the minor's or an incompetent adult's behalf in a lawsuit and protect the minor's or adult's best interests in court.^{61, 64}

GUARDIANSHIP See Also: **Legal Guardianship**

The court has appointed an individual to become a child's guardian. Guardianship is one of the permanency objectives available to children if reunification or adoption cannot occur.^{61, 64}

GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE (ALSO KNOWN AS SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP) See Also:

Subsidized Guardianship , Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program

The subsidized guardianship program is designed to ensure that financial barriers or costs associated with a child's special needs don't prevent the appointment of a guardian for a child. It is only available to wards of the Department. Guardianship Assistance can be federally funded if the guardian is a relative to the child

or can be state funded. (Legal Guardianship Guidebook)

H

HABEAS CORPUS

A writ that is usually used to bring a prisoner before the court to determine the legality of his imprisonment. It may also be used to bring a person in custody before the court to give testimony, or to be prosecuted.⁴

HARM

Past actions or inactions by the caregiver that have hurt or impacted the child physically, developmentally, or emotionally - used in Safety Organized Practice (SOP).

HARM STATEMENT

Clear and specific statements about the harm experienced by the child - used in Safety Organized Practice (SOP). The formula is: It was reported -> Caregiver actions or inactions -> Impact those had on the child.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Unless otherwise noted, a reference to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS or more simply DHHS).

HEALTHY FAMILIES AMERICA (HFA) (WITH THE CHILD WELFARE ADAPTION)

An evidence-based home visiting program in Nebraska, implemented as part of the Department's 2019-2020 Business Plan. The Healthy Families America model is focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect through a voluntary, strengths-based approach. The program best serves families who are high-risk and overburdened, including those who are involved in the child welfare system. HFA is designed to engage families as early as possible, during pregnancy or at the birth of a baby. For child welfare agencies, a challenge arises when families with older infants and toddlers are identified and are unavailable due to the age of a child. To address this existing gap in service, HFA created the Child Welfare Adaptation." Through the adaptation approach, HFA is available to eligible families with children up to 24 months of age. Per the federal clearinghouse, HFA was reviewed and rated as well-supported with the extended enrollment to age 24 months.

HEARING

Generally, a judicial examination of the issues of law and fact between parties.⁹

HEARSAY

Statements by a witness who did not see or hear the incident in question but heard about it from someone else. Hearsay is usually not admissible as evidence in court.⁴

HEMATOMA

Accumulation of blood in an organ or tissue due to a break in a wall of a blood vessel.⁹

HEMOPHILIA

A hereditary disorder in which blood fails to clot adequately and abnormal bleeding can occur.⁹

HERITAGE HEALTH

The name for Nebraska's Medicaid Managed Care program. Heritage Health provides managed care services for both Mental Health and Substance Abuse services and Physical and Surgical services in all 93 Nebraska counties.

HERNIATION

Abnormal protrusion of an organ or other body structure through a defect or natural opening in a covering, membrane, muscle, or bone.⁹

The most devastating type occurs when the brain herniates out of the bottom of the skull as a result of increased intracranial pressure, for example as a result of shaken baby syndrome.

HIGH PROFILE

Any other event that is highly concerning, poses potential liability, or is of emerging public interest, such as contacts involving the media.

HOME BASED FAMILY THERAPY (HBFT)

Intervention work conducted in the family's home focusing on reaching goals mutually set by the child or youth and his/her family. This work includes techniques focusing on conflict resolution, interventions, parent support services, skill building, or crisis services.¹⁴

HOME STUDY (SAFE AND TIMELY INTERSTATE HOME STUDY REPORT)

An evaluation of a home environment conducted in accordance with applicable requirements of the state in which the home is located, and to determine whether a proposed placement of a child would meet the individual needs of the child, including the child's safety, permanency, health, well-being, and mental, emotional and physical development.

The following are the types of home studies that can be completed under ICPC:

1. **Adoption home study:** a home study conducted for the purpose of placing a child for adoption with a placement resource. The adoption home study is the assessment and evaluation of a prospective adoptive parent(s).
2. **Foster home study:** a home study conducted for the purpose of placing a child with a placement resource who is required to be licensed or approved in accordance with federal and/or receiving state law.
3. **Parent home study:** applies to the home study conducted by the receiving state to determine whether a parent placement meets the standards as set forth by the requirements of the receiving state.
4. **Relative home study:** a home study conducted for the purpose of placing a child with a relative. This home study may or may not require the same level of screening as required for a foster home study or an adoptive home study depending upon the applicable law and/or requirements of the receiving state.
5. **Non-relative/Kinship home study:** a home study conducted for the purpose of placing a child with a non-relative. This home study may or may not require the same level of screening as required for a foster home study or an adoptive home study depending upon the applicable law and/or requirements of the receiving state.⁶⁰

HOME SUPPORTED SERVICES

An identified Safety and In-Home Service where children will receive supervision in a facility or home setting for a period of less than twenty-four (24) hours.²⁴

HOMESTUDY

A process through which prospective foster and adoptive parents are educated about foster care/adoption and evaluated to determine their suitability to foster/adopt.⁶

HOST HOME

A setting in which a young adult resides in the home of an adult or family (who may or may not be related to the young adult), shares basic facilities, and agrees to basic expectations as established by the host home, young adult, and the Department.⁴³

HOUSEHOLD VIOLENCE

Violence within the household which can include child to child; child and parent; parents to parent or other caretakers, adults, or relatives in the home.^{61, 64}

HOUSEHOLDS

All persons who have significant in-home contact with the child, including those who have a familial or intimate relationship with any person in the home. A person considered as a member of the household if he/she spends 50% or more of his/her time in the home OR if the home is his/her only permanent residence (e.g., deployed members of the military, temporarily incarcerated individuals).^{61, 64}

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

U.S. law defines human trafficking as the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into commercial sex acts or labor against their will. The Action-Means-Purpose (AMP) Model can be helpful in understanding the federal law. Human trafficking occurs when a perpetrator, often referred to as a trafficker, takes an Action, and then employs the Means of force, fraud or coercion for the Purpose of compelling the victim to provide commercial sex acts or labor or services. At a minimum, one element from each column must be present to establish a potential situation of human trafficking.

HYDROCEPHALUS

Abnormal increase in the amount of cerebrospinal fluid within the cranial cavity that is accompanied by expansion of the cerebral ventricles, enlargement of the skull and especially the forehead, and atrophy of the brain.⁹

This is usually treated by a shunt which drains the fluid into the abdomen.

I

IDEALIZATION

A psychological mechanism in which a person attributes exaggeratedly positive qualities to self or others – for example, the child who idealizes the absent abusive parent.⁹

IDENTIFICATION

The psychological process of feeling affinity with and like someone else and then behaving like that person – for example, an abusive person may identify with her mother, who abused her as a child.⁹

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Information on birth parents which discloses their identities.⁶

IMPEACHMENT

(1) The process of calling something into question, as in "impeaching the testimony of a witness." (2) The constitutional process whereby the House of Representatives may "impeach" (accuse of misconduct) high officers of the federal government for trial in the Senate.⁴

IMPETIGO

Superficial bacterial infection of the skin typically caused by Staphylococcus and Streptococcus. Produces lesions that appear as pustules and then later form crusts. Lesions are of different sizes and may produce blisters similar in appearance to cigarette burns. Usually do not leave scars, as cigarette burns may.⁹

IN FORMA PAUPERIS

A legal phrase meaning "in the manner of a pauper." Permission given to a person to sue without payment of court fees based on a claim of indigence or poverty.⁴

IN-HOME SAFETY SERVICES

An identified Safety and In-Home Service where the contractor will ensure the direct supervision of the child(ren) in the family home when the parent or caregiver who is or may be responsible for the identified safety concern is present.²⁴

INCAPACITATION

Applies to a parent or guardian who is unable to care for a child due to a medical, mental, or physical condition.⁶⁰

INCOME MAINTENANCE – FOSTER CARE WORKER (IMFC)

A Social Services Worker (SSW) who specializes in determining financial eligibility and need for children and youths who are state wards in out-of-home care. Authorizes payment of services when the ward is determined eligible.

INDEPENDENCE COORDINATOR

A Department employee who is responsible for providing case management to a young adult.⁴³

INDEPENDENCE HEARING

The last court hearing before jurisdiction pursuant to subdivision (3)(a) of section 43-247 is terminated for a child who is sixteen years of age or older or pursuant to subdivision (8) of section 43-247 for a child whose guardianship or state-funded adoption assistance agreement was disrupted or terminated after he or she had attained the age of sixteen years. The independence hearing shall address the child's future goals and plans and access to services and support for the transition from foster care to adulthood consistent with section 43-1311.03 and the Young Adult Bridge to Independence Act.

INDEPENDENT LIVING (IL)

The establishment of a residence for a foster youth to reside outside of a foster placement or his/her family. The youth would reside in an apartment, house, dorm or other type of living arrangement and is responsible for taking care of their needs (i.e., paying rent buying and preparing food, managing a budget). It is also a term used as a permanency objective or concurrent plan for a youth 16 years of age or older when it appears reunification may not occur and adoption or legal guardianship are not appropriate and the youth's best interest is served by self-sufficiency.^{61, 64}

INDIAN 🗣️

For purposes of the Indian Child Welfare Acts, any person who is a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or who is an Alaska Native and member of a regional corporation defined in section 7 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 43 U.S.C. 1606. This is a political, not racial, status.^{65, 5}

INDIAN CHILD 🗣️

For purposes of the Indian Child Welfare Acts, any unmarried person who is under age 18 and is either (1) a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or (2) is eligible for membership in a federally recognized Indian tribe and is the biological child of a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe. *The parent and child do not have to be members of or eligible for membership in the same federally recognized tribe for the ICWA to apply.* For example, the child may be eligible for membership in the Ponca Tribe, and the child's parent may be a member of the Omaha Tribe.

This is a political, not racial, status. Indian children may have blond hair and blue eyes, appear African American or have Hispanic surnames.^{65, 5}

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACTS (ICWA) 🗣️ See Also: **Active Efforts**

The federal and state law that provides direction in working with Indian Children and their families. Refer to the Indian Child Welfare Act Operations Manual for specific direction in working with children and families that may be Indian.^{61, 64}

Also, Nebraska enacted the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act, a law that mirrors the federal law, in 1985. Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-1501, et seq.⁵

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) establishes a minimum standard for preventing the breakup of the family, removal of an Indian child from their home and guidelines for placement in foster or adoptive homes. Active efforts must be made to keep the Indian family together. Active efforts means that everything possible must be performed to help the family resolve the problems that led to neglect or abuse, including referral to services that are sensitive to the family's culture. The CFS Specialist must involve and use the available resources of the extended family, the tribe, Indian social service agencies and individual Indian caregivers.⁶¹

INDIAN CHILD'S TRIBE 🗨️ See Also: **Primary Tribe**

(1) The Indian tribe in which an Indian child is a member or eligible for membership or (2) in the case of an Indian child who is a member of or eligible for membership in more than one tribe, the Indian tribe with which the Indian child has the more significant contacts. Although the court may limit intervention to only one tribe, if the child is a member or eligible for membership in more than one tribe, NDHHS welcomes the involvement of more than one tribe in case planning and placement decisions.^{65, 5}

Indian child's primary tribe may be established in the case of an Indian child that is a member or eligible for membership in multiple tribes. If the Indian child is eligible for membership or enrolled in multiple Indian tribes and more than one Indian tribe intervenes in a state court proceeding for the foster care placement of, or termination of parental rights to, an Indian child, the Indian child's primary tribe shall be determined in the following manner:

1. The applicable Indian tribes shall enter into a unanimous agreement designating which Indian tribe is the Indian child's primary tribe for the underlying state court proceeding within thirty days after intervention by one or more additional Indian tribes, after consultation, if practicable, with the parents of the Indian child and with the Indian child if he or she is twelve years of age or older; or
2. If unanimous agreement is not possible within the thirty-day period, the state court in which the proceeding is pending shall determine the Indian child's primary tribe based upon the amount and significance of the contacts between each Indian tribe and the Indian child.⁶⁵

INDIAN CUSTODIAN 🗨️

Any Indian person who has legal custody of an Indian child under tribal law or custom or under state law or to whom temporary physical care, custody and control has been transferred by a parent of the child.^{65, 5}

An Indian custodian can be related or unrelated to the Indian child. The Indian Custodian can be an Indian person who:

1. has custody or guardianship through a state court or a tribal court;
2. has cared for the child on a long term basis at the request of the parent; or
3. is babysitting at the request of a parent.

An Indian custodian has the same rights as a parent under the ICWAs. The CFS Specialist will work with the Indian custodian just as they would a biological parent.⁶⁵

INDIAN ORGANIZATION

Any group, association, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, or other legal entity owned or controlled by Indians or a majority of whose members are Indians.⁶⁵

INDIAN TRIBE See Also: **Federally Recognized Tribe**

INDICTMENT

The formal charge issued by a grand jury stating that there is enough evidence that the defendant committed the crime to justify proceeding to a trial; it is used primarily for felonies.⁴

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)

A Special Education document for a child with verified disabilities that is developed, reviewed, and revised in a meeting in accordance with Section 007 of the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 51. The IEP describes the Special Education and related services needed to provide a free and appropriate public education to the child. (92 N.A.C. 51-007)

INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN (IFSP) See Also: Early Development Network (EDN), The

A written plan for the provision of Special Education services to children between birth and three years of age. An IFSP deals with a broad range of family needs even though the Special Education program is responsible for implementing only the educational services and related services. The plan is developed and implemented in accordance with 480 N.A.C. 10-003 and 92 N.A.C. 51-007.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

The federal law that provides funding to states to help provide Special Education services to children with disabilities. Part B of this act describes services to children from ages 3 to 21, and Part C describes services for children from birth to three. Part C established the Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities, now called the Early Development Network in Nebraska.

INFANT

A child less than one year of age.²

INFORMAL LIVING ARRANGEMENT See Also: Approved Informal Living Arrangement (AILA)

Informal Living Arrangement means that the parent has made arrangements prior to or after DCFS involvement for a temporary and alternative place for their child to reside until child safety can be managed in the parental home. Informal Living Arrangements should be for a temporary period of time that is agreed upon by the parent and temporary alternative caregiver.^{42, 61, 64}

INFORMAL RESOURCE PEOPLE/PARTICIPANTS/SUPPORTS

Individuals who participate as members of the Family Team and do not receive payment for their responsibility with respect to the family. Examples of this may be relatives, neighbors, spiritual leaders, volunteer mentors, friends, etc.^{61, 64}

INFORMATION

A formal accusation by a government attorney that the defendant committed a misdemeanor.⁴

INITIAL ASSESSMENT

The process the Department utilizes to assess for child safety, risk and to determine if maltreatment occurred.^{61, 64}

INITIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The initial risk assessment is conducted by the CFSS during the Initial Assessment phase of case management. It helps to determine the initial risk score which will be used throughout the life of the case.³

INITIAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT

The initial safety assessment is conducted by the CFSS during the Initial assessment phase of case management. It helps to determine whether there are safety threats present and therefore, where safety interventions are necessary to ensure the child/children are safe.³

INJURY

Tissue damage such as welts, bruises, or lacerations that last more than 24 hours, resulting from trauma.^{61, 64}

INSTITUTIONAL DISCHARGE

A youth who is institutionally discharged is a juvenile offender who has been released from a YRTC and is simultaneously discharged from Department custody. Such youths are released to the community without subsequent parole supervision.

INSTITUTIONAL VISIT

A visit by the Child and Family Service Specialist to any of the YRTC/PRTF facilities to meet with institutional staff and assigned juveniles for the purpose of carrying out case management and release planning.

INTAKE

The stage of the CPS case process where the CPS caseworker screens and accepts reports of child maltreatment.^{61, 64}

INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION (IFP)

Intensive Family Preservation (IFP) provides intensive therapeutic and skill building interventions to a specific target population of families. This service is designed for families in crisis, whose children are at imminent risk of removal and placement or for families who have recently had a child placed out of home. Intensive Family Preservation aims to keep children at home in a safe, stable and nurturing family environment, improve parenting capacity and family functioning, improve children's well-being, and prevent unnecessary placement and/or safely facilitate the reunification of a children with their families. This service is designed to create rapid, sustainable change in the family unit by focusing on interventions that build on family strengths in order to eliminate safety threats and/or reduce the risk of child maltreatment.

INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION (IFP) SERVICES

An identified Safety and In-Home Service where the contractor agrees to provide intensive family preservation services that are accessible to the family.²⁴

INTENSIVE FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Intensive Family Reunification (IFR) provides intensive therapeutic and skill building interventions to families whose children have been removed and placed out of home for an extensive amount of time. Interventions are designed to address the safety threats that led to a child's removal and continued out of home placement. Additionally, this service improves parenting capacity as well as children's well-being, and families are safely reunified because of their change in behavior. This service creates rapid, sustainable change in the family unit by focusing on interventions that build on family strengths in order to eliminate safety threats and/or reduce the risk of child maltreatment.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM See Also: **Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) , 1184 Team**

This term is used to describe a child abuse and neglect investigation team or a child abuse and neglect treatment team. Also referred to as Multidisciplinary Team or LB 1184 Team. (390 1-007.02 and NRS 28-728 – 28-730)

INTERROGATORIES

Written questions asked by one party of an opposing party, who must answer them in writing under oath; a discovery device in a lawsuit.⁴

INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN (ICPC) HOME STUDY

Another state may request a Home Study of parents, relatives or kin for persons residing in Nebraska. These Home Studies will be completed using the Standardized Home Study Format. The completion time for these Home Studies shall be in accordance with Interstate Compact Placement of Children Regulations.⁴⁵

INTERSTATE COMPACT ON ADOPTION AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (ICAMA)

Agreement between states to provide medical coverage to an adoptive family of a child receiving federal subsidy when the family moves to another state.¹³

INTERSTATE COMPACT ON JUVENILES (ICJ)

The law which provides (1) for the return from one state to another of delinquent juveniles who have absconded; (2) for the return of non-delinquent juveniles who have run away from home; (3) for the cooperative supervision of delinquent juveniles on probation or parole; and, (4) for additional cooperative measures to the protection of juveniles and of the public. **ICI Compact Administrator** means the individual in each compacting state appointed by the appropriate state authority for the administration and management of the state's supervision and transfer of juvenile delinquents.^{61, 64}

INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN (ICPC)

The law which controls the movement of children from one state to another for the purposes of placement. **ICPC Administrator or designee** means a person designated by the executive head of each jurisdiction that is party to this compact who shall be general coordinator of activities under this compact in his/her jurisdiction and who, acting jointly with like persons of other party jurisdictions, shall have the power to promulgate rules and regulations to carry out more effectively the terms and provisions of this compact. In Nebraska this person is located in the Policy Unit of the Division of Children and Family Services.

The tribes are not signatories to these agreements. (390 N.A.C. 9-001) (N.R.S. 43-1101 et seq.)^{43, 61, 64} ICPC is required when a state is considering placement of a child in another state to reside, who is in the custody of a state agency, a private agency or under the jurisdiction of the court. ICPC is also used for non-wards, residential treatment center (RTC) placements, private adoptions, extension of foster care, and non-court involved children.⁶⁰

ISSUE

(1) The disputed point in a disagreement between parties in a lawsuit. (2) To send out officially, as in "to issue an order."⁴

J

JUDGE

Government official with authority to decide lawsuits brought before the court over which he/she presides. Other judicial officers in the U.S. courts system are Supreme Court justices.⁴

JUDGMENT

The official decision of a court finally determining the respective rights and claims of the parties to a suit.⁴

JURISDICTION

(1) The legal authority of a court to hear and decide a case. Concurrent jurisdiction exists when two courts have simultaneous responsibility for the same case. (2) The geographic area over which the court has authority to decide cases.⁴

JURISPRUDENCE

The study of law and the structure of the legal system.⁴

JURY

Persons selected according to law and sworn to inquire into and declare a just verdict on matters of fact.⁴

JUVENILE CODE

The compilation of Nebraska statutes which come within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. The juvenile code is meant to assure the right of all juveniles to care and protection and a stable living environment and to protect the public interest. (N.R.S. 43-245 et seq.)

JUVENILE COURT

A statutory (not criminal) court having special jurisdiction of a paternal nature over delinquent and neglected children; its practice and procedure are governed by rules applicable in civil cases. Nebraska has three “separate” juvenile courts located in Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties. In the remaining counties, juvenile matters are heard in the county courts.

JUVENILE OFFENDER (JO)

(1) Any juvenile who has committed an act other than a traffic offense which would constitute a misdemeanor or an infraction under the laws of the state or violation of a city or village ordinance. (2) Or any juvenile who has committed an act which would constitute a felony under the laws of this state. (3) Or any juvenile who has committed an act which would constitute a traffic offense as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat section 43-245.^{61, 64}

JUVENILE SERVICES

System that provides individualized accountability and individualized treatment for juveniles in a manner consistent with public safety to those juveniles who violate the law. The juvenile justice system shall also promote prevention efforts which are community-based and involve all sectors of the community. Prevention efforts shall be provided through the support of programs and services designed to meet the needs of those juveniles who are identified as being at risk of violating the law and those whose behavior is such that they endanger themselves or others. (N.R.S. 43-402)

K

KIDNAPPING

Kidnapping occurs when a person abducts another or, having abducted another, continues to restrain him/her with the intent to: a. Hold him/her for ransom; b. Use him/her as a shield or hostage; c. Terrorize him/her or a third person; d. Interfere with the performance of any government or political function.³⁹

KIDS CONNECTION

Nebraska’s name for an expansion of Medicaid benefits under the federal Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Kids Connection extends Medicaid to children in families whose income is up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but not to parents in these families.

KINSHIP ADOPTION See Also: **Relative Adoption**

Adoption of a child by someone related by family ties or a prior relationship.⁸

KINSHIP FOSTER HOME STUDY AFTER PLACEMENT OCCURS

A Kinship Foster Home Study shall be completed when a child or children are placed in a kinship home on an emergency basis, within thirty calendar days of placement of the child or children. All categories within

the Home Study shall be thoroughly assessed and documented as well as additional information shall be gathered in the Motivation to Foster/Adopt Children subject area related to the kinship person(s)' relationship with the child's parent (s), ability to meet the needs of the child, maintain the child's safety and work cooperatively with the child's parent (s). Information shall be gathered and documented within the evaluation category to determine if additional support or training may be necessary to ensure the child's stability of placement in the home.⁴⁵

KINSHIP FOSTER HOME STUDY PRIOR TO PLACEMENT

A Kinship Foster Home Study may be completed prior to the placement of a child or children in a Kinship home. A Kinship Home is defined as non-relative (s) of the child who have a significant preexisting relationship with the child or sibling of the child. All categories within the Home Study shall be thoroughly assessed and documented as well as additional information shall be gathered in the Motivation to Foster/Adopt Children subject area related to the kinship person(s)' relationship with the child's parent (s), ability to meet the needs of the child, maintain the child's safety and work cooperatively with the child's parent (s). Information shall be gathered and documented within the evaluation category to determine if additional support or training may be necessary to ensure the child's stability of placement in the home.⁴

KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM See Also: **Guardianship Assistance (also known as Subsidized Guardianship)**

The Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) provides financial assistance for a child after a relative has been appointed legal guardian and DHHS custody has been terminated. The program is designed to ensure that financial barriers or costs associated with a child's needs do not prevent the permanency option of guardianship for a child.⁴¹

KINSHIP HOME

A home where a child or children receive foster care and at least one of the primary caretakers has previously lived with or is a trusted adult that has a pre-existing, significant relationship with the child or children or is a sibling of such child or children pursuant to section 43-1311.02.^{61, 64}

L

LABOR TRAFFICKING

Labor trafficking in the United States is a form of human trafficking where victims are made to perform a task through force, fraud or coercion as it occurs in the United States. Labor trafficking is typically distinguished from sex trafficking, where the task is sexual in nature. Labor trafficking of a minor means knowingly recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining by any means or attempting to recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain by any means a minor intending or knowing that the minor will subject to forced labor or services.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The police department or town marshal in incorporated municipalities, the office of the sheriff in unincorporated areas, the Nebraska State Patrol, or tribal law enforcement.^{61, 64}

LAW ENFORCEMENT CHECK

A review of computer information or contact with a law enforcement agency to determine all felony or misdemeanor filings, including any charges filed, the dates filed, the level of charges, disposition date and final disposition.^{61, 64}

LAWSUIT

A legal action started by a plaintiff against a defendant based on a complaint that the defendant failed to perform a legal duty, resulting in harm to the plaintiff.⁴

LEARNING DISABILITY

A condition in which there is significant discrepancy between a child's achievement (in reading, spelling, written language, mathematics, and/or language skills) and ability, not the result of emotional disturbance, physical disability, health impairment, or lack of educational opportunity.⁹

LEAST RESTRICTIVE

A child is placed in a setting that is most comparable to his/her home.^{61, 64}

LEGAL CUSTODY

A legal relationship that is established by court order, in which one individual, referred to as the Custodian, is given legal authority over, and the corresponding legal responsibility for, another individual. Physical custody may or may not be simultaneous with legal custody.^{61, 64}

LEGAL GUARDIAN

An adult to whom the court has given parental responsibility and authority for a child. Appointment as guardian requires the filing of a petition and approval by the court and can be done without terminating the parental rights of the child's parents.⁸

LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP 🗨️ See Also: **Guardianship**

Considered as a permanency objective when: a) all efforts to reunify the family have been exhausted, b) the child cannot return home, and either c) all reasonable efforts to secure adoption of the child have been unsuccessful, or d) it is determined that adoption is not in the best interest of the child. (390 N.A.C. 6-001.01)

Legal guardianship a more appropriate permanency alternative for many tribes than termination of parental rights.⁵

LEGAL MOTHER OR FATHER

A person whom is established as the mother or father by marriage, adoption, written paternity acknowledgement, or as determined by a court with jurisdictional basis.⁵⁷

LEGAL PARENT

Term used to describe a person who has legal status as the parent of a child. Legal status involves the rights to be with and raise the child as well as responsibilities to care for, supervise, attend, and financially support the child. Legal status can involve marriage, notarized acknowledgment of paternity, or decision by the court that a man is the father.⁴

LEGAL RISK PLACEMENT

Placement of a child in a prospective adoptive family when a child is not yet legally free for adoption. Before a child can be legally adopted by another family, parental rights of his or her birth parents must be terminated. In a "legal risk" adoptive placement either this termination of parental rights has not yet occurred, or it is being contested. In some cases, termination of parental rights is delayed until a specific adoptive family has been identified.⁶

LEGALLY FREE

A child whose birth parents' rights have been legally terminated so that the child is "free" to be adopted by another family.⁶

LIABILITY

The condition of being legally obliged and responsible.

LICENSED FOSTER HOME STUDY

A Home Study must be completed prior to a foster care license being issued. All categories within the Home Study must be thoroughly assessed and documented in order to determine the safety and suitability of a person or persons to provide foster care for a child or children. All applicable background checks must be obtained, reviewed and documented prior to the finalization of the Home Study.⁴⁵

LIFEBOOK

A pictorial and written representation of the child's life designed to help the child make sense of his unique background and history. The life book includes birthparents, other relatives, birthplace and date, etc and can be put together by social workers, foster and/or adoptive parents working with the child.⁶

LITIGATION

A case, controversy, or lawsuit. Participants (plaintiffs and defendants) in lawsuits are called litigants.⁴

LONG TERM FOSTER CARE (LTFC)

When all efforts to achieve reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship are unsuccessful, this permanency objective may be selected. Long term foster care requires a planned formal agreement (390 N.A.C. 6-001.01)

LOSS

Often refers to situations when an adult or child loses a significant person in his/her life due to death, physical absence, or psychological absence.

M

MAGELLAN

Short for Magellan Behavioral Health of Nebraska, Inc., the company that administers Medicaid Managed Care in Nebraska through its contract with NDHHS. As of July, 2008, Magellan also contracts with NDHHS to manage funds the Division of Behavioral Health.

MAINTENANCE OF A WARDS CHILD

When a youth is in the care and custody of the Department, including a participant in the Bridge to Independence (b2i) Program is a parent, the Department will determine if monthly financial assistance, other than public assistance benefits for which all Nebraska residents may apply, will be provided to help cover the necessary costs of care for the child. If financial assistance will be provided, the Department will determine the amount.

MALTREATMENT See Also: **Child/Youth Maltreatment , Child Abuse and Neglect (CA/N)**

Parenting behavior that is harmful or destructive to a child's (age birth through age eighteen (18)) cognitive, social, emotional, and/ or physical development.^{42, 61, 64}

MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION (MCO)

A contracted agency responsible to provide for the physical, behavioral, dental, and pharmaceutical needs to Medicaid enrollees.

MANDATED REPORTER

A person designated by state statutes who is legally responsible for reporting suspected cases of child neglect and abuse to the mandated agency.⁹

In Nebraska, all citizens are mandated reporters. (N.R.S. 28-710)

MATCHING

The process of finding prospective families specifically suited to meet the needs of children awaiting placement. The term is used in both foster care and adoption.⁸

MATERNAL, INFANT & EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING (MIECHV)

Support for pregnant or parenting families of children birth to age 5 who may struggle with significant life stressors such as poverty, exposure to violence or substance abuse, teen parenting, or military families with one or both parents in service. It is community-based, voluntary and free.

MEDIATION

An intervention technique used in disputes between parties to help them reconcile differences, find compromises, or reach mutually satisfactory agreements.⁹

In Nebraska, mediation is an alternative to formal juvenile court processing for non-violent juvenile offenders and status offenders, as determined by the county attorney. (N.R.S. 43-274)

MEDICAID

A medical insurance program for qualified individuals who cannot finance their own medical expenses. Provided for by Title 19 of the Social Security Act and administered by the states and funded jointly by the individual states and by the federal government.

MEDICAID FEE-FOR-SERVICE

Medical and surgical services that are paid for by the Medicaid program at an agreed upon rate with the medical provider. Fee-for-service is used to pay for medical and surgical care in all Nebraska counties except Douglas, Sarpy, and Lancaster.

MEDICAID MANAGED CARE (MMC)

Managed care is a system in which the State contracts with a managed care organization (commonly referred to as an MCO or a health plan) to provide health care benefits and services to Medicaid and CHIP enrollees. Managed care is designed to improve access to care, enhance health outcomes, and reduce costs by eliminating inappropriate and unnecessary care through the use of preventive services and improved care coordination.³³

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The medical assistance program established by Neb. Rev. Stat. §68-903, which is also known as Nebraska Medicaid.⁴³

MEDICAL NEGLECT See Also: **Neglect**

The parent/caregiver's pattern of refusing or failing to seek/obtain medical treatment or rehabilitative care for the child's conditions that have potential life-threatening or long-term health effects, including failure to thrive. This includes appropriate medication, medical or dental care, or speech or physical therapy when there is potential for lifelong negative impact.^{61, 64}

MEDICAL NEGLECT OF HANDICAPPED INFANT See Also: **Neglect**

The withholding of medically indicated treatment (including appropriate nutrition, hydration, and medication) from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions. Exceptions include those situations in which:

1. The infant is chronically and irreversibly comatose;
2. The provision of this treatment would merely prolong dying or not be effective in improving or correcting all the life-threatening conditions; or
3. The treatment would be virtually futile in terms of the survival of the infant and the treatment itself in such a situation be inhumane. Food and water must always be provided regardless of the extent of

disabilities, and "quality of life" cannot be used as a criterion for deciding upon appropriate medical treatment.^{61, 64}

MEDICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (MHCP)

Provides family-focused services coordination/case management, specialty medical team evaluations for children in local areas, access to specialty physicians, and payment of treatment services. The Program provides access to specialty evaluations that provide a diagnosis and medical treatment plan prior to the family making a financial application. The evaluations may be provided with select specialty providers and/or one of the specialty clinics for children and youth.²¹

MEMBERSHIP (ICWA SPECIFIC LANGUAGE) 🐾

A tribal standard met by tribal criteria in all federally recognized tribes. Membership in a tribe signifies that a person is eligible for access to benefits provided to Indians by the United States Government, including the protections of the Indian Child Welfare Acts. Membership is not always interchangeable with enrollment or registration, and it is not necessary to be enrolled or registered to be a member of a tribe, depending upon tribal criteria. A tribal determination of membership is conclusive as to that tribe at that point in time.^{65, 5}

MEXICAN NATIONAL MINORS 🇲🇽

Any unmarried person who is under the age of eighteen and was born in Mexico.²

MICROCEPHALY

Abnormal smallness of the head, usually associated with mental retardation.

MIRANDA WARNING

A statement given by law enforcement to a person taken into custody that he or she has the right to remain silent and is entitled to legal counsel.⁹

MISDEMEANOR

Usually a petty offense, a less serious crime than a felony, punishable by less than a year of confinement.⁴

MISSING CHILD/FAMILY ALERT

A process whereby CFS agencies can attempt to locate families who have left their jurisdiction by notifying other parts of the state, or other state CFS agencies, that the children are under the jurisdiction of the court or may be in danger.^{61, 64}

MISSING YOUTH

There is reasonable evidence to suggest that the child is missing or has been absent from home without parent/caregiver consent, and the parent/caregiver does not know where to locate the child.⁶

MISTRIAL

An invalid trial, caused by fundamental error. When a mistrial is declared, the trial must start again from the selection of the jury.⁴

MONGOLIAN SPOTS

Grayish-blue, clearly defined areas of increased skin pigmentation, most commonly found on the buttocks or the back. They are present at birth and usually fade after the first few years of life. Seen in all racial groups, they are most commonly found in children with darker skin pigmentation.⁹

Mongolian spots is a common but unfortunate label for this condition; the proper medical reference is "hyperpigmented macules."

MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING

Interviewing that focuses on strategies such as reflective listening, summarizations, open-ended questions, and affirmation-eliciting self-motivation statements; has been used in early stages of engagement and reduces barriers for individual family members in their change process.⁹

MULTI-ETHNIC PLACEMENT ACT (MEPA) AND INTER-ETHNIC ADOPTIONS PROVISIONS ACT (IEAPA)

In 1994, the MEPA legislation eliminated policies that favored same-race placements. Amendments to MEPA, found in the IEAPA legislation, established Congress's intent to prevent discrimination or delays in foster care or adoptive placement and specifically prohibited delays in or denial of foster care or adoptive placement on the basis of race, culture, or ethnicity. MEPA makes an exception for Indian children who hold the political status of members or eligible for membership in federally recognized tribes, ensuring them placement with extended, tribal, or other Indian families according to the placement preferences of the Indian Child Welfare Acts.^{5, 9}
(P.L. 103-82)

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM (MDT) See Also: **Interdisciplinary Team , 1184 Team**

A general term for a group of professionals, and possibly paraprofessionals, representing a variety of disciplines (e.g., law enforcement, social workers, psychologists, and the community). They interact and coordinate their efforts to diagnose and treat specific cases of child abuse and neglect and may also address the general problem of child maltreatment in a community. This term is also used more specifically in Special Education to refer to the team that evaluates children who may have disabilities.

MULTIPLE NATIONAL MINORS/MINORS HOLDING DUAL CITIZENSHIP

Any unmarried person who is under the age of eighteen and who holds citizenship simultaneously in the United States and one other country.²

MULTIPLE REPORTER

Multiple Reporter refers to an intake that has been called in to the hotline within 30 days of a current initial assessment alleging the same concerns. (SWI 2.3)

MULTISYSTEMIC THERAPY (MST)

An intensive family and community-based treatment for serious juvenile offenders with possible substance abuse issues and their families. The target population is 12-17 year olds who are at risk of out-of-home placement due to delinquent behavior. In Nebraska, MST is a Medicaid-funded program and the target population is juvenile offenders and youth with either a substance use or behavioral health diagnosis. MST is rated well-supported on the Federal Clearinghouse.

N

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT DATA SYSTEM (NCANDS)

Authorized by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA); a nationwide voluntary system of reporting on the acceptance and investigation of child maltreatment allegations. CAPTA requires states that receive a State Child Abuse Grant to provide information on the extent and nature of child abuse and neglect.⁹

NATIONAL YOUTH IN TRANSITION DATABASE (NYTD)

The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) requires States to collect information on each youth who receives independent living services paid for or provided by the State agency and to collect demographic and outcome information on certain youth in foster care whom the State will follow over time to collect additional outcome information.

NATURAL/REAL PARENT

A term commonly used to refer to a child's biological parents, generally used by those not familiar with positive adoption language. More acceptable language would be First Parent or Biological Parent.

NEAR FATALITY

A case in which an examining physician determines that a child is in serious or critical condition as the result of sickness or injury caused by suspected abuse, neglect, or maltreatment. (Nebraska Rev. Stat. 81-3126)^{51, 61, 64}

NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (NAC)

Every unit of Nebraska state government is subject to administrative rules and regulations. Collectively, these rules are referred to as the Nebraska Administrative Code. The section of the code that governs Protection and Safety work is Title 390 ("Child Welfare and Juvenile Services"). These state regulations have the force and effect of law.

NEBRASKA BIOLOGICAL FATHER REGISTRY See Also: **Putative Father Registries**

The Registry allows possible biological fathers to provide identifying information about themselves, the mother, and the child, so registered men can be notified about adoption proceedings. The Registry consists of men who voluntarily file the required notice with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, as well as any man -- made known to the Department -- who has been found to be a father by a court of competent jurisdiction. (NE Rev. Stat. 43-104.01)^{12, 27}

NEBRASKA CAREGIVER RESPONSIBILITY TOOL (NCR)

The Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility Tool determines the foster care maintenance rate for caregivers of children and youth in foster care. The tiered caregiving responsibilities take into consideration the level of accommodations, interventions, additional planning and consideration in a variety of settings required for the child's safety and well-being. Each level includes the responsibilities of the previous level. Payment increases as the caregiver responsibility increases. Payment level decreases as caregiving intensity decreases in accordance with the child's growth, development and decreased need.

NEBRASKA DATA EXCHANGE NETWORK

Also known as NDEN, this network provides Nebraska criminal history on individuals including warrants, probation, parole and non-criminal court involvement. It also includes Department of Health and Human Services involvement.⁶³

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (NDHHS OR MORE SIMPLY DHHS)

The full formal title of the state governmental department that administers social services and health-related programs. There are six Divisions within the Department: Behavioral Health; Children and Family Services; Developmental Disabilities; Medicaid and Long-Term Care; Public Health; and Veterans' Homes.

NEBRASKA FAMILY ON-LINE CLIENT USER SYSTEM (N-FOCUS)

The state-managed and locally-accessed computer system that records and authorizes all service-related activities for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Child Welfare and Juvenile Services activities are documented within the Child Welfare Information System (CWIS) section of N-FOCUS.

NEBRASKA FAMILY POLICY ACT

A set of laws that directs state agencies in Nebraska to provide assistance under the philosophy of family-centered, community-based services.(N.R.S. 43-532 et seq.)

NEBRASKA HEALTH CONNECTION (NHC)

The name for Nebraska's Medicaid Managed Care program. As of July 1, 2012, Nebraska Health Connection provides managed care services for both Mental Health and Substance Abuse services and Physical and Surgical services in all 93 Nebraska counties.

NEBRASKA INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (NICWA)

The Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-1501 et seq.) provides that "It shall be the policy of the State to cooperate fully with Indian Tribes in Nebraska in order to ensure that the intent and provisions of the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act are enforced". (Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-1502)

NEBRASKA REVISED STATUTES (NRS)

A reference to the body of statutory law in Nebraska; law as enacted by the Nebraska State Legislature.

NEBRASKA SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

A registry listing of individual convicted of sexual assault and other crimes such as Pandering or Debauching of a Minor, Sexually Explicit Conduct and Criminal Child Enticement, among others.⁶³

NEBRASKA STATE PATROL

The Nebraska law enforcement agency that submits National criminal history check requests on the Division of Children and Family Services behalf to the Federal Bureau of Investigation through their criminal records division. Also provides Patrol Criminal History upon written or verbal request from the Division of Children and Family Services.⁶³

NEED

A lack of something requisite, desirable, or useful; a physiological or psychological requirement for the well-being of an organism; the absence of something that is necessary to achieve the desired outcome(s); impediments that block achievements of the outcome(s); necessary but missing skills, insights, strategies, or behaviors.²⁸

NEGLECT See Also: **Physical Neglect , Serious Physical Abuse and/or Neglect , Emotional Neglect , Medical Neglect , Medical Neglect of Handicapped Infant**

NOLO CONTENDERE

A plea or answer of no contest in a juvenile court proceeding; it means the party is not admitting the truth of the allegations against the party, but is willing for the court to treat the allegations as proven.⁴

NON-COURT APPROVED OPEN ADOPTION (ALSO CALLED A NON-LEGALLY BINDING OPEN ADOPTION)

This type of agreement may be between the prospective adoptive parent(s) and the birth parent(s) or any birth relative of the child. An agreement may be made between adoptive families of siblings who were adopted. The court is not involved but a written contract with the terms of contact and communication is signed by both families. This contract is not legally binding. The Department should be involved and should retain a copy for the records. An agreement may include changes of address and a method for maintaining contact.¹³

NON-COURT INVOLVED CASE

A case in which the family agrees to work with DHHS without involving the juvenile court system, to address the identified safety threats and/or reduce the potential for risk of future maltreatment to children. Non-court involved cases are also described as Voluntary Cases.^{61, 64}

NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT

Any individual recognized as the parent legally through marriage, adoption, or biology; a man named by the mother or other relative as the father, who agrees he is the father; or in some cases, an individual who has acted in the role of parent for a significant period of time who does not have placement of the child the majority of the time.^{61, 64}

The parent with whom the child does not reside on a permanent basis. Although this parent may have visitation, the primary living arrangement for the child is with the custodial parent. The non-custodial parent is not the non-offending parent living in the same household at the time of the report that resulted in DHHS involvement.⁵⁷

A person who, at the time of the commencement of court proceedings in the sending state, does not have sole legal custody of the child or physical custody of the child.⁶⁰

NON-IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Facts about the birth parents or adoptive parents that would not lead to their discovery by another person.⁶

NON-OFFENDING PARENT

The parent who is not the subject of allegations or findings of child abuse or neglect.⁶⁰

NON-RECURRING ADOPTION COSTS

One-time adoption expenses that may be at least partially reimbursed by States up to a maximum amount, as determined by the State responsible for the adoption assistance payments, for families adopting children with special needs. Allowable expenses for this reimbursement benefit can include the cost of a home study, adoption fees, court costs, attorney fees, physical and psychological examinations, travel to visit with the child prior to the placement, and other expenses related to the legal adoption of a child with special needs.⁸

NON-RELATIVE/KINSHIP

A person not connected to the child by blood, marriage or adoption, or otherwise defined by the sending or receiving state. One of the primary caretakers has previously lived with or is a trusted adult that has a pre-existing, significant relationship with the child or children, or is a sibling of such a child. Examples: Relatives of parents whose rights have been terminated or relinquished; Biological parents whose rights have been terminated or relinquished; Step-parent, no longer married to blood relative; Teacher, child care provider, friend of the family, etc.⁶⁰

NON-URGENT PLACEMENT WITH RELATIVE OR KIN

A non-urgent placement exists when a Child and Family Services Specialist does not believe there is sufficient information to approve a relative or kinship home on an urgent basis, and believes a more thorough assessment, which includes a home study, needs to be completed prior to a decision to place a child in that home.²

NOTICE

Provides a person or entity (e.g. tribe) with information that a case has been filed or a proceeding is scheduled. Often, notice is intended to inform a party to a lawsuit about the facts being complained of, or the charges being made against that party. With notice the party knows what the allegations against him or her are, and can prepare a defense. This is one of the basic parts of due process.^{65, 4}

For ICWA purposes, formal written notice must be sent to parents, Indian custodians, and all tribes in which the child may be eligible for membership, as previously defined, when seeking to place a child in foster care (even if the child remains in a parent's home) and when seeking to terminate parental rights. The content of the notice must contain the information specified in the Code of Federal Regulations.^{65, 5}

NOTICE TO FATHER IN ADOPTION

Nebraska laws require that any possible biological father be notified and informed of his rights and responsibilities if a child is to be placed for adoption. The agency worker or attorney is mandated to use due diligence in notifying the father or possible fathers of their rights by use of receipt of formal notification given in person or through registered mail or publication in a newspaper of general circulation. See NRS 43-104.12 and NRS 43-104.16. If the father was not notified, the court may appoint a guardian ad litem to notify him of his rights and responsibilities and to receive notice of any and all hearings, (NRS 43-104.18). Exceptions to notification exist when there is clear evidence that notice would be likely to threaten the safety of the birthmother or the child or conception was the result of sexual assault or incest. (NRS 104.15)⁴

O

OLD-AGE, SURVIVORS, & DISABILITY INSURANCE (OASDI) See Also: Social Security Survivors Benefit

A federal program that provides benefits to retirees and disabled people —and to their spouses, children, and survivors. The goal of the program is to partially replace income that is lost due to old age, death of a spouse, or qualifying ex-spouse, or disability. The OASDI program is the official name for Social Security in the United States.

ONGOING SERVICES

After completion of the Safety Assessment and Initial Risk Assessment the CFSS makes a determination of whether or not the family needs Ongoing services. This is based on the risk level-(high and very high risk are determined to need Ongoing services).³

OPEN ADOPTION/OPENESS

Adoptive situation in which a birth relative continues to have contact with a child in the adoptive home, or adoptive families or families of siblings continue to have contact with each other, after finalization. The purpose of open adoption is maintenance of a relationship which is supportive of the child's emotional growth and well-being. Arrangements are made by mutual agreement of birth relative and adoptive parents, or between adoptive parents. Open adoption can range from semi-open to full-open. There are two types of open adoption agreements: non-court approved and court approved.¹³

OPEN-ENDED QUESTION

A question that requires the person to respond with more than a yes, no, or short answer. Used as a way to prompt a person to provide a narrative response.⁹

OPINION

A judge's written explanation of a decision of the court or of a majority of judges. A dissenting opinion disagrees with the majority opinion because of the reasoning and/or the principles of law on which the decision is based. A concurring opinion agrees with the decision of the court but offers further comment.⁴

ORAL ARGUMENT

An opportunity for lawyers to summarize their position before the court and also to answer the judge's questions.⁴

ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE

The birth certificate issued at the birth of a child.¹⁰

OUT OF HOME CARE PROVIDER

Any adult providing care for a child other than the parent(s). This can include relatives, kinship placement, foster parents, group home staff, PRTF staff, and adult caregiver(s) in an informal living arrangement, etc. If a youth is placed in Independent Living or with a legal parent, they do not have an out of home care provider.

OUTCOMES See Also: **Goals**

Statements that identify specifically what is to be produced by each Family/Person Centered Plan.²⁸
The intended results of a behavioral change process.

P

PANEL

(1) In the jury selection process, the group of potential jurors; (2) In appellate cases, a group of judges (usually three) assigned to decide the case.⁴

PARANOIA

A disturbed thought process characterized by excessive suspiciousness, often to the point of irrationality and delusion. Paranoid thinking typically includes persecutory beliefs concerning a perceived threat.

PARENT

A biological parent, legal guardian, or adoptive mother or father as determined by applicable state law and is responsible for the care, custody and control of a child or upon whom there is legal duty for such care. If the child is Native American, parent refers to any biological Native American or non-Native American parent of a Native American child or any Native American person who has lawfully adopted a child, including adoptions under tribal law or custom. It does not include the unwed father where paternity has not been acknowledged or established under state or tribal law. Parents whose rights are relinquished or terminated do not fall into this category.^{2, 60}

For purposes of the Indian Child Welfare Acts, parent is any biological parent or parents of an Indian child or any Indian person who has lawfully adopted an Indian child, including adoptions under tribal law or custom. It does not include the unwed father when paternity has not been acknowledged or established.^{65, 5}

For the purposes of special education, under Nebraska Department of Education Rule 51, a parent means a biological or adoptive parent of a child, a foster parent, or a guardian, but not the State if the child is a ward of the State; an individual acting in place of the biological or adoptive parent (including a grandparent, step parent, or other relative) with whom the child lives, or a surrogate who has been appointed.^{21, 22}

PARENT CHILD INTERACTION THERAPY (PCIT)

Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) is a dyadic behavioral intervention for children and their parents or caregivers focused on decreasing externalizing child behavior problems, increasing child social skills and cooperation, and improving the parent-child attachment relationship. The target population is children ages 2-7 years of age and their caretakers. PCIT is rated well-supported on the Federal Clearinghouse.

PARENT EDUCATION

Activities that provide information on child development, parental responsibilities, health care, resources and other relevant topics. The service may be provided in the home or in a center.¹⁴

PARENTAL HOME STUDY

A Home Study shall only be completed on a parent of a child or children using the Home Study standardized format on order of the Court or through the Interstate Compact Placement Agreement. For purposes of a Parental Home Study for placement, the parent will not be subjected to a national criminal history check through fingerprinting.⁴⁵

PARENTAL RIGHTS

The legal rights and corresponding legal obligations that go along with being the parent of a child.⁸

PARENTING TIME

The quality and quantity of time a parent spends with their child who is in out of home care.^{61, 64}

PARENTING TIME PLAN See Also: **Visitation Plan**

Written guidelines to help maintain frequent and regular contact of children/youth in out-of-home placement with their parents and siblings. This term is often used interchangeably with “visitation plan” although “parenting time plan” is the preferred terminology to be used.

PAROLE

In the context of a juvenile committed to the Department, parole means continuing supervision within the community for a youth who has received a conditional release from a YRTC. Note that in Nebraska parole is different than probation (which is administered through the judicial branch).

PAROLEE

A youth on parole; a juvenile offender committed to NDHHS/OJS who has received a conditional release from a YRTC and is now under supervision in the community by a Juvenile Services Officer.

PART C

Usually is a reference to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which establishes Special Education programs for disabled children from birth to three years of age.

PART-TIME ENROLLMENT

Enrollment in an education program for at least 6 (six) credit hours per semester.⁴³

PARTY

A person making or responding to a claim in a in a court or other adversarial proceeding. A person who sues or defends a lawsuit or any person joined in a lawsuit is called a party. A party has the right to conduct discovery and receive notice of all proceedings connected with the lawsuit.

PATERNITY

Legal or biological fatherhood.⁸

Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-104.01 provides a method of legally acknowledging paternity for purposes related to adoption. Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-1406 identifies that paternity can be established by judicial order, by a prior determination of paternity made by any other state or by an Indian tribe. When a CFS Specialist is informed that an Indian Tribe has established paternity, the CFS Specialist will contact DHHS Legal.⁶⁵

PATERNITY ESTABLISHMENT

The legal procedure to determine if a man is the biological father of a particular child and to establish his rights and responsibilities in regard to that child.⁸

PERMANENCY

Both a process and a result that includes involvement of the child as a participant or leader in finding a permanent connection with at least one committed adult who provides a safe, stable and secure parenting relationship, love, unconditional commitment and lifelong support in the context of reunification, a legal adoption, or guardianship, where possible, and in which the child/youth has the opportunity to maintain contacts with important persons including brothers and sisters.^{61, 64}

PERMANENCY HEARING

A type of hearing that is mandated by law to help prevent children from languishing in the child welfare system; it must occur: 1) after a child has been in out-of-home care for 12 months, and 2) again after a child has been in out-of-home care 15 out of 22 months. The court determines whether the permanency plan is appropriate, whether the parents have had enough time to correct the problems leading to out-of-home placement, and whether the permanency objective is still appropriate.

PERMANENCY OBJECTIVE

An anticipated result of all efforts and services, which will result in permanency for the child or his/her discharge from Department custody.^{61, 64}

The intended type of placement that will best fulfill a child's safety, well-being, and permanency needs. For Indian children, permanency objectives may be modified to take into account tribal culture.⁵

PERMANENCY PLAN

The systematic process of carrying out (within a brief, time-limited period) a set of goal-directed activities designed to help children live in permanent families. This process has the goal of providing the child continuity of relationships with nurturing parents or caretakers and the opportunity to establish lifetime family relationships.^{61, 64}

PERMANENCY PLANNING

A part of the overall case management process; it involves identifying a permanent home and preparing the child and family, both the biological and foster or adoptive, for the placement.

PERMANENCY REVIEW HEARING

A court hearing to be held a minimum of one time a year to address progress towards permanency for the young adult.⁴³

PETIT JURY (OR TRIAL JURY)

A group of citizens who hear the evidence presented by both sides at trial and determine the facts in dispute.⁴

PETITION

A document filed by a county attorney in a juvenile court at the beginning of a maltreatment, status offense, and/or delinquency case. The petition states the allegations that, if true, form the basis for court intervention.^{9, 61, 64}

Also, a document filed by a Department attorney to initiate court proceedings for a young adult to be involved in the Bridge to Independence Program.^{42, 43}

PETITIONER

Practically synonymous with plaintiff in legal nomenclature and refers to the party bringing the case to court for a decision.⁹

PHOTOLISTING

A publication (print or online) that contains photos and descriptions of children who are available for adoption. Photolisting is used by agencies and adoption exchanges to recruit prospective adoptive parents for children awaiting permanency.⁸

PHYSICAL ABUSE See Also: **Abuse**

The non-accidental infliction of injury or an act that poses substantial likelihood of inflicting bodily injury.^{61, 64}

PHYSICAL CUSTODY

The individual with whom the agency places a child for provision of physical care, or in the case of children who are not wards of DHHS, or the individual(s) physically caring for the child.^{61, 64}

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Any tangible piece of proof such as a document, x-ray, photograph, or weapon used to inflict an injury. Usually must be authenticated by a witness who testifies to the connections of the evidence (called an exhibit) with other facts in the case.⁹

PHYSICAL NEGLECT See Also: **Neglect**

The failure of the parent to provide basic needs, for example food, clothing, shelter, medical care, supervision and a safe and sanitary living environment for the child.^{61, 64}

PHYSICAL REMOVAL

A bodily removal of the child from the home. (479 N.A.C. 1-004)

PLACEMENT

The arrangement for the care of a child in a licensed or approved foster family or in a child-caring agency or institution but does not include any institution caring for the mentally ill, mentally defective or epileptic or any institution primarily education in character, and any hospital or other medical facility. For purposes of the Indian Child Welfare Act, the definition of placement can include an institution caring for the mentally ill, mentally defective or epileptic or any institution primarily educational in character, and any hospital or other medical facility.^{61, 64}

PLACEMENT CONCERN

When a concern regarding a foster home (licensed or approved) is called into the Hotline and it is not accepted for investigation, due to not meeting maltreatment criteria, the intake is closed with the status "Placement Concern". The Foster Care Resource Development staff (FCRD) assigned to the home and assigned Child and Family Services Specialist (CFSS) to any child in the home will be responsible for addressing the concern. The service area providing case management is responsible for maintaining or changing the placement. Placement concerns should be addressed as quickly as possible and, in most instances, foster homes should not be on a placement hold beyond thirty (30) days of the Hotline receiving the placement concern, unless noted on the corrective action plan.⁶²

PLACEMENT PREFERENCES (ICWA SPECIFIC LANGUAGE) 🗣️

For Indian children, the Indian Child Welfare Acts provide placement preferences for Foster Care and Preadoptive Placements and for Adoptive Placements in the absence of placement preferences specified by a tribe.⁵

Those preferences identified in Neb. Rev. Statute 43-1508. Tribes may establish a different order of placement preferences, which should be followed. Otherwise, any child accepted for foster care or preadoptive placement or a voluntary foster care placement shall be placed in the least restrictive setting which most approximates a family and in which his or her special needs, if any, may be met. The child shall also be placed within reasonable proximity to his or her home, taking into account any special needs of the child.

In any foster care or preadoptive placement, a preference shall be given, in the absence of good cause to the contrary, to a placement with one of the following in descending priority order:

1. A member of the Indian child's extended family;
2. Other members of the Indian child's tribe or tribes;
3. A foster home licensed, approved, or specified by the Indian child's tribe or tribes;
4. An Indian foster home licensed or approved by an authorized non-Indian licensing authority;

5. A non-Indian family committed to enabling the child to have extended family time and participation in the cultural and ceremonial events of the Indian child's tribe or tribes;
6. An Indian facility or program for children approved by an Indian tribe or operated by an Indian organization which has a program suitable to meet the Indian child's needs; or
7. A non-Indian facility or program for children approved by an Indian tribe.

In any adoptive placement of an Indian child under state law, a preference shall be given, in the absence of good cause to the contrary, to a placement with the following in descending priority order:

1. A member of the Indian child's extended family;
2. Other members of the Indian child's tribe or tribes; or
3. Other Indian families; or
4. A non-Indian family committed to enabling the child to have extended family time and participation in the cultural and ceremonial events of the Indian child's tribe or tribes.⁶⁵

PLACEMENT RESOURCE

Person(s) or facility with whom the child has been or may be placed by a parent or legal custodian; or, placed by the court of jurisdiction in the sending state; or, for whom placement is sought in the receiving state.⁶⁰

PLAINTIFF

The person who files the complaint in a civil lawsuit.⁴

PLEA

In a criminal case, the defendant's statement pleading "guilty" or "not guilty" in answer to the charges, a declaration made in open court.⁴

PLEADINGS

Written statements of the parties in a civil case of their positions. In the federal courts, the principal pleadings are the complaint and the answer.⁴

POLICY OVERRIDES

These overrides refer to the incidents or conditions that require a deviation from the sdm decision due to policy.³

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The engagement of youth in activities and events that give youth the chance to exercise leadership, build skills, and get involved. The self-confidence, trust, and practical knowledge that young people gain from these opportunities help them grow into healthy, happy, self-sufficient adults.¹⁹

POST PLACEMENT ADOPTIVE HOME STUDY

A Post Placement Adoptive Home Study shall be completed when a child has resided in a foster home and the permanency plan for the child is adoption with those foster parents. A Post Placement Adoptive Home Study shall specifically address the needs of the child and the plan for the adoptive parents to meet those needs, the parent's ability to transition from foster parent to adoptive parent, and their ability and willingness to be supportive of the child's history and need for family connections.⁴⁵

POST-ADOPTION SERVICES See Also: **Post-Guardianship Services**

Services provided after an adoptive placement to the adopted person, the adoptive family, and/or the birth parents.⁸

In Nebraska, Post-Adoption and Post-Guardianship Services are offered by Right Turn ®. Right Turn® was established in 2009 in response to some of the post adoption/guardianship issues that arose from Nebraska's original Safe Haven law. Safe Haven made it clear that many adoptive and guardianship

families were struggling and frustrated and did not know where to turn for help.³⁰

POST-GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES See Also: **Post-Adoption Services**

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Education beyond secondary education including, but not limited to university, college, vocational or trade schools, and other settings of higher education.⁴³

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)

An anxiety disorder in which a traumatic event is repeatedly experienced in the person's mind to the point that it may interfere with daily functioning. These experiences can take the form of flashbacks to the event, nightmares, daydreams, etc.⁹

POSTNATAL

Occurring after birth, with reference to a newborn child.⁹

POSTPLACEMENT


The period of time before an adoption is finalized, but after a grant of legal custody, or guardianship of the child to the prospective adoptive parents, or to a custodian for the purpose of adoption.⁸

POSTPLACEMENT SUPERVISION

The range of counseling and agency services provided to adoptive parents and adopted children after adoptive placement, before the adoption is legally finalized in court. The primary purpose of postplacement supervision is to assure, inasmuch as possible, that the child is safe in the home, that his or her well-being needs are met, and that the adoptive family remains committed to and is able to provide a permanent home for the child.⁸

PRAECIPE

Usually, a request from a party to a lawsuit to a clerk of the court to do something. Often used as a way to request that the clerk issue a summons for service on a party, or a subpoena to a witness.⁴

PRE-ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT  See Also: **Adoptive Placement , Child Custody Proceeding (ICWA Specific Language)**

For Indian children, See CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING.⁵

PRE-DISPOSITION EVALUATION (PDE)

A contracted service for the Department in which juvenile offenders are clinically evaluated with regard to their physical, psychological, social, and educational needs. Each evaluation is intended to supply information to the committing court prior to the disposition hearing. These are conducted in either a residential or non-residential (community based) setting.

PRE-DISPOSITION INVESTIGATION (PDI)

A report completed by the local probation office for the court prior to a youth's disposition hearing, generally in status offense or juvenile offense cases. The probation officer gathers social, educational, and criminal history information regarding the youth. Child Welfare and Juvenile Services staff do not have any involvement in the preparation of this report to the court.

PRECEDENT

A court decision in an earlier case with facts and law similar to a dispute currently before a court. Precedent will ordinarily govern the decision of a later similar case, unless a party can show that it was wrongly decided or that it differed in some significant way.

PRELIMINARY HEARING

Within the Office of Juvenile Services, this is an informal hearing held to determine whether there is probable cause to believe that a parolee has violated his/her Conditions of Liberty (COL) agreement. A finding of probable cause by the hearing officer leads to a formal revocation hearing for the youth. If the youth's parole is revoked, he/she typically is returned to placement at the YRTC.

PREPARATION FOR ADULT LIVING SERVICES (PALS)

The PALS program provides preparation, transition, and independent living services to current and former foster youth who are expected to age out of the foster care system and youth emancipated from the foster care system in Nebraska. PALS are contracted services and PALS Specialists are located across the state.²³

PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE

An event is more likely to have occurred than not by a greater weight of the evidence. As the term "preponderance of the evidence" suggests, there must be credible evidence of maltreatment documented in the case record to support a finding of agency substantiated.^{61, 64}

PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

A meeting of the judge and lawyers to discuss which matters should be presented to the jury, to review evidence and witnesses, to set a timetable, and to discuss the settlement of the case.⁴

PREVENTION ASSESSMENT

A process to evaluate the probability (likelihood, chance, potential, prospect) that a family involved with DHHS for Dependency or Status Offense will experience maltreatment in the next 12 to 18 months.^{61, 64}

PRIMARY CAREGIVER

Person in the household who provides the most child care. The primary caregiver is considered to provide at least 51 % of the care.^{61, 64}

PRIMARY TRIBE See Also: **Indian Child's Tribe**

The tribe that is determined by the procedures described in N.R.S. 43-1504(4) if an Indian child is a member or eligible for membership in multiple tribes. See Indian child's primary tribe definition.⁶⁵

PRIORITY RESPONSE

The process at intake that determines the time frames required for initial contact. In Nebraska, there are three levels of response.

PRIVATE AGENCY ADOPTION

Adoption directed and supervised by a licensed private adoption agency, where the agency has legal custody of the child.³²

PRO SE

A Latin term meaning "on one's own behalf"; in courts, it refers to persons who present their own cases without lawyers.

PROBABLE CAUSE

A reasonable belief that a person has committed (or is committing) a crime. Often the standard used by a law enforcement officer in deciding whether to arrest an individual or conduct a search.

PROBATION

Direct community supervision by a probation officer of youths who have been adjudicated as juvenile or status offenders. The privilege of remaining in the community is conditioned upon abiding by certain rules and guidelines. Probation is a part of the judicial branch of government.

PROBATIONER

A juvenile or status offender who is ordered by the court to be supervised in the community by a probation officer.

PROCEDURE

The rules for the conduct of a lawsuit; there are separate rules for civil, criminal, evidence, bankruptcy, and appellate procedure.⁴

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE FAMILY CARE (PRFC)

This is a Medicaid residential service for children with a mental health or substance abuse diagnosis (DSM-5). It is a short-term and intensive supportive resource for the child and family. It is intended to serve as a crisis stabilization option for the family in order to avoid inpatient or institutional treatment. A parent or parent substitute must be willing to participate in a co-parenting approach with ongoing, active participation in the treatment. A permanent family (not a temporary family or group home) must be available for the child after discharge.³³

PROGRESS REPORT/SUPERVISION REPORT

A written assessment of a child's current placement, school performance and health and medical status, a description of any unmet needs and a recommendation regarding continuation of the placement provided by the supervising case worker in the receiving state.⁶⁰

PROJECT EVERLAST

A community collaboration in the Omaha Metro Area which provide services, supports and leadership opportunities to unconnected youth and young adults from ages 14-26 with experience in foster care, juvenile justice systems, those struggling with homelessness and who are disconnected from a family resource.

PROMISING

A rating used by the Administration for Children and Families to perform systematic reviews of research and evaluation on programs and services intended to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements. A program or service is designated as promising if it demonstrates a favorable effect on a target outcome as shown by at least one study determined to be well designed and well executed and utilized some form of control group.

PROSECUTE

To charge someone with a crime or move forward with a proceedings in a civil or criminal case. A prosecutor tries a criminal case on behalf of the government.⁴

PROTECTIVE AUTHORITY

The authority of workers to intervene with families to promote the safety and welfare of certain categories of children, as authorized by state law. (With respect to Nebraska, see N.R.S. 43-707)

PROTECTIVE CAPACITIES

Demonstrated abilities and qualities that could be used to create safety - used in Safety Organized Practice (SOP).

PROTECTIVE PLACEMENT

Safety threats are identified and no interventions are possible, the child is unsafe and must be taken into protective placement. Protective placement is defined as: 1) the family voluntarily placing their child out of the home in a residence approved by the Department; or 2) the Department initiating court action.^{61, 64}

PROTOCOL

The methods and standards established by local law enforcement and DHHS of handling investigations of child maltreatment allegations.⁴

PROVISIONAL PLACEMENT

A determination made in the receiving state that the proposed placement is safe and suitable and, to the extent allowable, the receiving state has temporarily waived its standards or requirements otherwise applicable to prospective foster or adoptive parents to expedite the placement. Completion of the receiving state requirements regarding training for prospective foster or adoptive parents shall not delay an otherwise safe and suitable placement.

1. Provisional Approval: an initial decision by the receiving state that the placement is provisionally approved subject to receipt of required information before final placement approval is granted.
2. Provisional Denial: an initial decision by the receiving state denying provisional placement pending completion of the comprehensive home study due to issues that need to be resolved with the proposed placement resource.⁶⁰

PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY (PRTF)

A PRTF is an accredited facility providing clinically necessary services with diagnosed severe and persistent (6 months or more) mental health or substance abuse problems requiring 24 hour inpatient care and treatment in a highly structured, closely supervised environment. Treatment must be under the supervision of a psychiatrist. At a minimum, individual psychotherapy and/or substance abuse counseling must occur twice a week with weekly family psychotherapy.³³

PSYCHOSOMATIC SYMPTOMS

Physical symptoms that have psychological causes.⁹

PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

A medication aimed at changing behavior, mood, or attention including medications classified as stimulant, antidepressant, antipsychotic, anti-anxiety, or mood stabilizing.

PUBLIC AGENCY ADOPTION

Adoption of a state ward directed and supervised by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, or the similar public agency in other states.³²

PUBLIC BENEFITS

Public assistance including, but not limited to, the following: aid to dependent children, supplemental security income, social security disability income, social security survivor's benefits, supplemental nutritional assistance program, developmentally disabled program, and low-income home energy assistance programs.⁴³

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Division of Public Health is a division of the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (NDHHS) that is responsible for preventive and community health programs and services. It is also responsible for the regulation and licensure of health-related professions and occupations, as well as the regulation and licensure of health care facilities and services.

PUTATIVE FATHER See Also: **Alleged Father**

The person alleged to be the biological father of a child with no legal establishment of paternity. Also referred to as the alleged parent.^{12, 57, 61, 64}

PUTATIVE FATHER REGISTRIES See Also: **Nebraska Biological Father Registry**

Registry system that serves to ensure that a birthfather's rights are protected. Some states require that birthfathers register at these facilities, while other states presume that he does not wish to pursue paternity rights if he doesn't initiate any legal action.⁶

Q**QPR (QUESTION, PERSUADE, AND REFER)**

QPR is an emergency mental health intervention for suicidal persons created in 1995 by Paul Quinnett. An abbreviation for Question, Persuade, and Refer, the intent is also to identify and interrupt the crisis and direct that person to the proper care.

QUALIFIED EXPERT WITNESS  See Also: **Expert Witness**

For ICWA purposes, a person who is qualified to speak specifically to the issue of whether continued custody by the parents or Indian custodians is likely to result in serious emotional or physical damage to the Indian child. Qualified expert witness shall mean one of the following persons, in descending priority order although a court may assess the credibility of individual witnesses:

1. A member of the Indian child's tribe or tribes who is recognized by the tribal community as knowledgeable in tribal customs as they pertain to family and childrearing practices;
2. A member of another tribe who is recognized to be a qualified expert witness by the Indian child's tribe or tribes based on his or her knowledge of the delivery of child and family services to Indians and the Indian child's tribe or tribes;
3. A lay expert witness that possesses substantial experience in the delivery of child and family services to Indians and extensive knowledge of prevailing social and cultural standards and childrearing practices within the Indian child's tribe or tribes;
4. A professional person having substantial education and experience in the area of his or her specialty who can demonstrate knowledge of the prevailing social and cultural standards and childrearing practices within the Indian child's tribe or tribes; or
5. Any other professional person having substantial education in the area of his or her specialty.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Guidelines include characteristics of potential qualified expert witnesses, and the Nebraska Court of Appeals has stated that a CFS Specialist with a bachelor's degree in human services and 11 years of experience did not meet the criteria for a qualified expert witness for ICWA "...without more background or qualification in native culture."^{65, 4, 5}

R**REAL EVIDENCE**

Evidence that is addressed directly to the senses without intervention of testimony.⁹

This refers to tangible items.⁴

REASONABLE AND PRUDENT PARENT STANDARD (RPPS)

A requirement of federal and state law that requires foster parents to make careful and sensible decisions to allow children to engage in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities. The law also states that these activities do not necessitate the conducting of a background check prior to permission to engage in the activity.⁶³

The standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain a child's health, safety, and best interests while at the same time encouraging the child's emotional and developmental growth, that a caregiver must use when determining whether to allow a child in foster care under the responsibility of the state to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities.⁶⁶

REASONABLE EFFORTS

Supports and services, both informal and formal, that are needed to preserve and reunify families which may allow the child to remain in his/her home safely or to be returned home. The CFS Specialist must review the existing threats to child safety and determine what actions are necessary to reduce the threat to allow the child to remain at home safely or to make it possible for the children placed in out-of-home care to be reunited with his or her family.^{61, 64}

For Indian children, the standard is active efforts.⁵

REASONABLE MEDICAL JUDGMENT

A medical judgment that would be made by a reasonably prudent physician, knowledgeable about the case and the treatment possibilities with respect to the medical conditions involved.²

RECAPITULATION

The process of reviewing and summarizing discussed topics.⁹

RECEIVING STATE

The state in which a youth is placed for supervision under the provision of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles or Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

The state to which a child is sent or brought or caused to be sent or brought, whether by public authorities or private persons or agencies, for placement with state or local public authorities or for placement with private agencies or persons.⁶⁰

RECIDIVISM

The recurrence of a situation, for example – repeated theft by a juvenile offender or repeated child abuse and neglect by a parent or caregiver.⁹

Another example – when a juvenile is already adjudicated as a delinquent and has a second adjudication as a delinquent or is convicted of a crime in adult court.¹⁹

RECORD

A written account of all the acts and proceedings in a lawsuit.⁴

REDIRECTION

An interviewing strategy used to help an interviewee organize his or her thinking, maintain focus, or move a conversation in a less confrontational direction.⁹

REFERRAL See Also: **Report**

In Child Welfare work, often the same thing as a report.

REFLECTION

Paraphrasing what a person has said (i.e., the content) or identifying and verbalizing a person's feelings.⁹

REGISTRATION (ICWA SPECIFIC LANGUAGE) See Also: **Enrollment (ICWA Specific Language)**

See Enrollment (ICWA Specific Language) for meaning of registration in a tribe.⁵

RELATIVE

A person connected to the child by blood, marriage, adoption or tribal law or custom. A person related through legal guardianship will be deemed to be a relative for the purpose of these regulations. For Native American children, relative will be defined either by the law or custom of the tribe, or, in the absence of tribal law or custom, as defined by the Indian Child Welfare Act.^{61, 64}

A birth or adoptive brother, sister, stepparent, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, niece, nephew, as well as relatives of half-blood or marriage and those denoted by the prefixes of grand and great, including grandparent or great grandparent, or as defined in state statute for the purpose of foster and or adoptive placements.⁶⁰

RELATIVE ADOPTION See Also: **Kinship Adoption**

RELATIVE HOME

A home where a child or children receive foster care and at least one of the primary caretakers is related to the child or children, or to a sibling of such child or children pursuant to section 43-1311.02, in his or her care by blood, marriage, or adoption or, in the case of an Indian child, at least one of the primary caretakers is an extended family member as defined in section 43-1503.²

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

A signed and dated document by a person giving the Division of Children and Family Services permission to conduct any background check on said person. For purposes of this document, the signed release of information is valid for one year from the date of signature.⁶³

RELINQUISHMENT OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

Voluntary surrendering of all legal rights and responsibilities of a parent. Relinquishment of a child to the Department is effective upon written acceptance by the Department. Relinquishment to the Department is irrevocable and transfers guardianship and full parental rights to the Department (except in cases in which the Indian Child Welfare Act applies and relinquishment by an Indian or non-Indian parent of an Indian child may be revoked at any time prior to the entry of a final decree of termination or adoption).⁵

RELOCATION

The movement of a child or family from one state to another.⁶⁰

REMAND

An appellate court sending a case back to a lower court for further proceedings.⁴

REPORT See Also: **Referral**

A report of possible child maltreatment that is provided to the Child and Family Services Intake Unit from sources generally outside the agency. An investigation of abuse/neglect is initiated if the report meets statutory and agency guidelines.

REPORTING CENTER

A contracted service for youth adjudicated as juvenile offenders and committed to the Department; a program/facility in the community where youths present themselves for official check-in and for supervised activities and educational programs.¹⁴

REPORTING PARTY

The individual who informs the Department or law enforcement about suspected abuse or neglect. In Nebraska, the identity of the reporting party is confidential information.

REPRESSION

A psychological defense mechanism in which the person is unable to remember or to be cognitively aware of disturbing wishes, feelings, thoughts, or experiences.⁹

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

A request for proposal (RFP) is a business document that announces and provides details about a project, as well as solicits bids from contractors who will help complete the project.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) refers to the pre-qualification stage of the procurement process. Only those proponents who successfully respond to the RFQ and meet the qualification criteria will be included in the subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) solicitation process.

RESERVATION

Indian country as defined in the United States Code and any lands, not covered under such section, title to which is either held by the United States in trust for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual or held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to a restriction by the United States against alienation or a federally designated or established service area which means a geographic area designated by the United States where federal services and benefits furnished to Indians and Indian tribes are provided or which is otherwise designated to constitute an area on or near a reservation.⁶⁵

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

An identified Safety Service where children will receive supervision in a facility for a period of more than twenty-four (24) hours.²⁴

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (RD)

Area of NDHHS which develops and contracts with providers for placement and other service options for children and youths committed to the Department and their families.

RESPITE CARE OR RESPITE HOME (RC OR RH)

A service to allow a caregiver a brief break from care giving responsibilities. Can be used by parents, foster parents, and other providers and is provided in a home or a center.¹⁴

RESPITE SERVICES

An identified Safety and In-Home Service where the contractor will provide respite services to be provided both in the family home and outside the family home based on the specific needs of the family.²⁴

RESPONDENT

Anyone who answers or responds. Is often used to mean the defendant in a lawsuit.⁹

RETINAL HEMORRHAGE

Bleeding in the retina on the inside back of the child's eye, seen only with an ophthalmoscope. This type of bleeding is commonly seen with subdural hematomas as a result of shaking of a child under two years, and is rarely seen from falls or other single-blow trauma. When seen with subdural hematomas in a child under two years of age without other head bruising, they are believed to be strong evidence that the child has been severely shaken.

REUNIFICATION

A permanent plan for the child that involves the return of the child to any individual who retains parental or legal rights to the child after removal for child abuse, neglect, or both, regardless of the custody arrangement prior to the child entering out-of-home care.^{61, 64}

REUNIFICATION ASSESSMENT

A process to assess whether a child(ren) can be safely returned to the family home based on an evaluation of safety, risk and parenting time.^{61, 64}

The SDM tool used to reassess risk, reassess safety, assessment parenting time, all in order to make a decision as to whether or not the child/children are ready to be reunified, and if not, whether the permanency goal needs to be changed.³

REUNION

A meeting between birth relatives and an adopted person.⁸

REVERSAL

A reversal occurs when an appellate court sets aside the decision of a lower court because of an error. A reversal is often followed by a remand.⁴

REVIEW HEARING

Held by the juvenile or family court to review case progress (usually every 6 months) and to determine the need for continued court jurisdiction. Under the Social Security Act, the status of each child in foster care must be reviewed at least once every 6 months by either a court or by administrative review.⁸

REVOCAION HEARING

Within the Office of Juvenile Services, a formal administrative hearing procedure held to: 1) determine whether a parolee has violated his/her Conditions of Liberty (COL) agreement, and 2) determine the most appropriate placement for the youth. Youths whose parole is revoked commonly are returned to placement at the YRTC. A revocation hearing must follow within 14 days of a finding of probable cause at a preliminary hearing.

RICKETS

Bone disease resulting from vitamin D deficiency, renal and hepatic disease, and/or certain medications that may cause bone irregularities similar to those caused by trauma. The X-ray findings in this disease are specific to the disease and usually not confused with abuse.⁹

RISK

The likelihood of repeated future harm. The probability (likelihood, chance, potential, prospect) that any harm will occur in the next year to two years.^{61, 64}

RISK ASSESSMENT

An objective appraisal of the likelihood that children in a household will experience abuse or neglect in the future.^{61, 64}

The SDM tool which helps to answer the decision of whether to close a case or continue the case for ongoing services. This tool estimates the probability of a future incident, regardless of the current investigation finding. Families at higher risk of another incident should receive ongoing services. Families who are lower risk can have their cases closed if the children are safe.³

RISK LEVEL

This level is determined by scoring each of the indices, totaling each index's score, and taking the highest score from the abuse and neglect indices.³

RISK RE-ASSESSMENT

The process of reassessing for risk to determine if change has been made in the family that has reduced or increased the probability of future harm.^{61, 64}

An SDM tool used to reassess risk for a family, as well as, evaluate the family's progress toward case plan

goals.³

RULE 51

Nebraska Department of Education rules and regulations concerning Special Education. (92 N.A.C. 51-000)

S

SAFE

The absence of safety threats. Based on currently available information, there are no children likely to be in imminent danger of serious harm.³

SAFE CHILD

No safety threats were identified at the present time. Based on currently available information, there are no children likely to be in imminent danger of serious harm.^{61, 64}

SAFE HAVEN

A Nebraska law which permits a person to legally surrender a child thirty days old or younger to the custody of an employee on duty at a hospital licensed by the State of Nebraska. The person will not be prosecuted for any crime based solely upon the act of leaving the baby under these circumstances.

SAFETY

Actions of protection demonstrated by a caregiver, that mitigates the danger and is demonstrated over time.^{61, 64}

SAFETY ASSESSMENT

The purpose of the safety assessment is to assess whether a household presents imminent danger of serious harm to any child, and if so, determine what interventions should be initiated or maintained to provide appropriate protection or if protective placement is necessary. SWI 3.4.3 SDM Safety Assessment.

SAFETY CONCERN

Circumstances in the placement that make a child less safe. They may or may not rise to the level of being a safety threat, but, because the child is in state custody, would represent a reason to consider changing the placement if the concern cannot be contained through a plan to increase safety.³

SAFETY DECISION

A decision made based on the worker's independent assessment of all safety threats, safety interventions, and any other information known about the case. There are three possible safety decisions: Safe, Conditionally Safe, and Unsafe.³

SAFETY GOAL

Clear and simple statements about what the caregiver will do that will show everyone the child is safe now and into the future - used in Safety Organized Practice (SOP).

SAFETY HOUSE

A method for including the child's voice in safety planning - used in Safety Organized Practice (SOP).

SAFETY INTERVENTION

Involvement to mitigate safety threats which utilizes family strengths whenever possible through the use of family, kin, neighbors or other individuals in the community as safety resources. It may also include direct services by the case manager and community and agency resources. Action to remove a child from the

home may be necessary to ensure child safety through court action, or the family and DHHS agreement to an informal out-of-home placement with relatives.^{61, 64}

SAFETY MAPPING

A process of gathering and organizing information to reach joint understanding and agreement - used in Safety Organized Practice (SOP).

SAFETY ORGANIZED PRACTICE

A practice model designed to help child welfare staff use critical thinking and build good working relationships with families to improve child safety.

SAFETY PLAN

The safety plan is a written agreement created with the family that describes the safety threats and how those safety threats will be managed to ensure child safety. The plan may remain in effect as long as needed and must be continuously evaluated and modified as long as it is in effect.^{61, 64}

SAFETY SERVICES

Services that are provided to address the safety threat identified in the family. Safety services may be in-home, out-of-home, or a combination of both.¹⁹

SAFETY THREAT

There are circumstances in the family situation that could result in serious harm to the child. "Serious" means that the harm would require medical or mental health attention or emergency services, and that if DHHS staff do not think they could contain the threat, staff could not leave the child in the home. "Imminent" means that there is a reasonable expectation that the harm will occur in the next week or month.^{61, 64}

SCAPEGOAT

A person bearing the blame for others and /or receiving the brunt of punishment.⁹

SCHIZOPHRENIA

A group of psychotic reactions characterized by fundamental disturbances in reality relations and concept formations, and behavioral, affective, and intellectual disturbances in varying degrees.⁹

SCREENING

The process of determining whether a report of child abuse or neglect will be accepted for further investigation, based on whether the report falls within the guidelines established by state law and agency policies.

SCURVY

Rare condition resulting from vitamin C deficiency that may cause irregularities and fractures of the bones.⁹

SEALED ADOPTION RECORDS

The original birth certificate of an adopted person, and records of court proceedings, agency reports, and other documents are sealed to protect the confidentiality of the parties to an adoption. Release of information in these sealed records is governed by state law in the U.S.¹⁰

SEARCH

Activities by a birth parent, adopted person, or adoptive parent to learn the identity and location of another member of the adoption triad, often with the intent of initiating some form of contact.⁸

SECONDARY CAREGIVER

A person residing in the household and provides care for children. They are usually a legal parent or another adult that provides less than 50% of care to the child.^{61, 64}

SECONDARY EDUCATION

High school or a program leading to an equivalent to a high school diploma (examples include, but are not limited to, a public or private high school, a college-preparatory school, a GED program, an independent study program, or home schooling).⁴³

SECRETARY (ICWA SPECIFIC LANGUAGE)

For purposes of the Indian Child Welfare Acts, the Secretary of the Interior.⁵

SELF-SUFFICIENCY WITH SUPPORTS

This is the last choice among the permanency objectives and is appropriate for a youth who experiences disabilities and who is currently receiving and will continue to need a supervised living situation as an adult. (390 N.A.C. 6-001.01)

SEMI-OPEN ADOPTION

Adoptive situation in which a birth relative and adoptive parent meet before the adoption is final, usually once, to exchange information. Usually identifying information (names and addresses) is not shared.²

SENDING STATE

The state with court jurisdiction which has sent a juvenile to another state for supervision under the provisions of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles or the Interstate Compact on Placement of Children. The state where the sending agency is located, or the state in which the court holds exclusive jurisdiction over a child, which causes, permits or enables the child to be sent to another state.⁶⁰

SENTENCE

The punishment ordered by a court for a defendant convicted of a crime.⁴

SEQUESTER

To separate. Sometimes juries are sequestered from outside influences during their deliberations. Witnesses may be also sequestered: not allowed to listen to other witnesses testify or to speak with other witnesses about their testimony during a proceeding.⁴

SERIOUS BODILY INJURY

- a. Shall mean bodily injury which involves a substantial risk of death or which involves substantial risk of serious permanent disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any part or organ of the body;
- b. Any incident which resulted in a child fatality or near fatality.³⁹

SERIOUS PHYSICAL ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT See Also: **Abuse , Neglect**

The incident required emergency medical care where the child was admitted to the hospital and/or may require on-going medical/mental health/physical or occupational therapy for a long term disability or condition resulting from the incident.³⁹

SERVICE AREA

Geographical boundaries established to organize and manage the work of DHHS employees. There are five Service Areas: Eastern, Southeastern, Northern, Central, and Western. Service areas include all field offices, but not the system's 24-hour facilities.

SERVICE OF PROCESS

The delivery of writs, petitions, or summonses to the appropriate party.⁴

SERVICES

Actions, activities, tasks, resources, and interactions (both informal and professional) which address underlying needs and facilitate change or provide a safe environment for children within a family.

SETTLEMENT

This occurs when parties to a lawsuit resolve their difference without having a trial. Settlements often involve the payment of compensation by one party in satisfaction of the other party's claims.⁴

SEX TRAFFICKING

Sex trafficking is “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.” It involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to make an adult engage in commercial sex acts. However, any commercial sexual activity with a minor, even without force, fraud, or coercion, is considered trafficking.

Nebraska State Law: Sex trafficking of a minor means knowingly recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing, soliciting, or obtaining by any means or knowingly attempting to recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, solicit, or obtain by any means a minor for the purpose of having such minor engage in commercial sexual activity, sexually explicit performance, or the production of pornography or to cause or attempt to cause a minor to engage in commercial sexual activity, sexually explicit performance, or the production of pornography (Neb. Rev. Statute 28-830).

SEXUAL ABUSE See Also: **Abuse**

Any sexually oriented act, practice, contact, or interaction in which the child is or has been used for the sexual stimulation of a parent, the child, or other person. (*For more detail, see N-DHHS Protection and Safety Procedure Update #21-2015*)^{61, 64}

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Is, but is not limited to, causing, allowing, permitting, inflicting or encouraging, or forcing a minor child to solicit for or engage in voyeurism, exhibitionism, or prostitution, or in the production, distribution or acquisition of pornographic photography, films or depictions of the child when the child is unable to give consent due to the child's age or incapacity.^{61, 64}

SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME See Also: **Abusive Head Trauma (AHT)**

A type of head injury in abused children. This type of abuse involves infants who are held by the arms or trunk and violently shaken. There may or may not be impact with a hard or soft surface in addition to the shaking. Commonly, infants with this identified form of injury are less than 2 years of age and are usually less than 6 months of age. Presenting symptoms are often irritability, poor feeding, and lethargy.⁹

This term is being replaced by the more general term Abusive Head Trauma (AHT). Shaking is still considered the most common mechanism for causing subdural hematoma and retinal hemorrhages in children below two years of age who do not show extensive bruising to the head.

SIBLING

A sibling is a brother or sister who is related by blood, marriage or adoption, or who would have been considered a sibling if not for the termination or other disruption of parental rights.⁵²

Sibling includes biological, legal, half and step brother or sister as defined by Nebraska statute. For purpose of relative notification it includes persons who would have been siblings but for a termination of parental rights or other disruption in parental rights such as death of a parent. Therefore, any and all adoptive parents of siblings or half siblings of the child must receive notice of the child's removal.⁵⁵

SIDEBAR

A conference between the judge and lawyers held out of earshot of the jury and spectators.⁴

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing, also called physical distancing, is a set of non-pharmaceutical interventions or measures taken to prevent the spread of a contagious disease by maintaining a physical distance between people and reducing the number of times people come into close contact with each other.

SOCIAL ISOLATION

The limited interaction and contact of many abusing and/or neglecting parents with relatives, neighbors, friends, or community resources. Social isolation can perpetuate a basic lack of trust, which hinders both the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect.⁹

SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH BENEFIT

A small one-time \$255 lump-sum payment paid to a surviving spouse or child based on certain eligibility requirements.

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INCOME (SSDI)

A federal insurance program that pays benefits to people who are physically restricted in their ability to be employed because of a notable disability.

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY OR SURVIVOR (SSA)

Income/benefits based on parental disability or parental death.

SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

Income/benefits based on the individual's disability.

SOCIAL SECURITY SURVIVORS BENEFIT Insurance (OASDI) See Also: **Old-Age, Survivors, & Disability**

Monthly income/benefits provided to eligible spouses or children of workers who are deceased if they were disabled or would have been eligible to collect Social Security benefits upon retirement.

SOCIAL SERVICES WORKER (SSW)

DHHS worker who determines eligibility of adults, families and children, based on income and need, for financial, medical, or social services.

SOVEREIGN NATION 🗣️

A government that has the right to exercise the functions of a government, typically without the control of any other government. The definition has shifted over time, but has included some degree of absoluteness. The United States Government has referred to federally recognized tribes as quasi-sovereign nations since tribes and tribal members are subject to control, to some degree, by the federal government. Sovereignty includes aspects of internal control over its citizens and external control over outside capacities in government to government relationships.⁵

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Specially designed instruction and related services, at no cost to the parent, to meet the unique needs of a child between birth and 21 years of age with a verified disability, including classroom instruction, instruction in physical education, home instruction, and instruction in hospitals and institutions. The term includes speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, and physical therapy if the service consists of specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability.²¹

SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS (SIJS)

An immigrant classification that makes a juvenile eligible to later apply for permanent resident status or a "green card".²

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

Children in foster care available for adoption or adopted from foster care who meet a State's definition of "special needs." There is no Federal definition of special needs, and the guidelines for classifying a child as special needs vary by State. The term is used in State law to indicate eligibility for Federal financial assistance, and most frequently refers to children who are school-aged, part of a sibling group, children of color, or those with special physical, emotional, or developmental needs. The phrase "special needs" can apply to almost any child or youth adopted from foster care. The preferred term is "children with special needs."⁸

SPLIT FEATHER SYNDROME

The experience of a Native American child who is raised in a non-Native American culture and is never accepted by or fully adapts to either culture.⁵

SPLITTING

A psychological mechanism in which the person views himself or others as all good or all bad, failing to integrate the positive and the negative qualities into cohesive images. Often the person alternately idealizes and devalues the same person; for example – the parent or caregiver who is either defiant or compliant with the CFS Specialist with little apparent provocation.⁹

STAFFING

A collaborative meeting with system partners who are responsible for ensuring a child's needs are being met.

STATE / TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE AGREEMENT

The Agreements (as of 2009) by which NDHHS and the Omaha, Santee Sioux and Winnebago Tribes state the process by which NDHHS will provide resources for tribal child welfare programs, protocol to be followed in accessing resources, and other aspects of child welfare.⁵

STATE AUTOMATED CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION SYSTEM (SACWIS)

The generic federal name given to the states' computerized child welfare tracking systems. In Nebraska, the tracking system managed by Child Welfare and Juvenile Services staff is referred to simply as CWIS – the Child Welfare Information System. Each SACWIS must meet requirements established by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to enable the state's federal reporting for AFCARS and NCANDS.⁹

STATE WARD

Any child or youth whose legal custody by judicial determination has been retained by the court or assigned to the Department.

STATE-LEVEL CRIMINAL HISTORY

A statewide criminal history report, first reviewed utilizing the Nebraska Data Exchange Network, and then through contact with the Nebraska State Patrol if additional information is needed.⁶³

STATUS OFFENDER (SO)

Any juvenile who, by reason of being wayward, or habitually disobedient, is uncontrolled by his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; who departs himself or herself so as to injure or endanger seriously the morals or health of himself, or others; or who is habitually truant from home or school.^{61, 64}

STATUTE

A law passed by a legislature. Also sometimes labeled as statutory law, in contrast to case law.⁴

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

A law that sets the time frame within which parties must take action to enforce their rights.⁴

STEP-PARENT

A man or woman married to a parent of a child at the time of the intended placement or as otherwise defined by the sending and/or receiving state laws, rules and/or regulations.⁶⁰

STRENGTHS

As used in the context of Safety Organized Practice (SOP): Coping skills/qualities in an individual or a family that contribute in positive ways to family life but do not, in and of themselves, directly enhance protection of children from the danger over time.

As used in the context of family/person centered practice: a strong attribute or inherent asset; what a person is good at; what he/she values and what he/she chooses. Also may include: a social or recreational preference, important belief system, hobby, skill, or favorite activity.²⁸

As used in the context of Structured Decision Making: represents a significant area of family functioning that may support a family's ability to maintain the safety and well-being of the children. A strength response in the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment is a response in which the caregiver/child have exceptional skills or resources in this area.³⁴

STRUCTURED DECISION MAKING (SDM)

An evidence based approach to child protective services that uses clearly defined and consistently applied decision-making criteria for screening for investigation, determining response priority, identifying immediate threatened harm, and estimating the risk of future abuse and neglect. Child and family needs and strengths are identified and considered in developing and monitoring progress toward a case plan.

SUBDURAL HEMATOMA

This term is often shortened to subdurals. It is bleeding underneath the skull and on top of the brain in a layer that contains the bleeding and therefore produces localized impingement on the brain. Subdurals cause increased pressure in the skull and may eventually cause herniation of the brain and death. They are often caused by severe shaking of a child under two years of age, and are rarely seen from falls or other single-blow trauma. When seen with retinal hemorrhages they are believed to be strong evidence of shaking.

SUBPOENA

A judicial order to appear at a certain time and place, on a certain date, to give testimony on a certain matter.⁹

SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM

A judicial order to a witness to produce documents.⁴

SUBSIDIZED ADOPTION See Also: **Adoption Assistance (also known as Adoption Subsidies)** , **Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act**

SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP See Also: **Guardianship Assistance (also known as Subsidized Guardianship)**

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5), no longer uses the terms substance abuse and substance dependence, rather it refers to substance use disorders, which are defined as mild, moderate, or severe to indicate the level of severity, which is determined by the number of diagnostic criteria met by an individual. Substance use disorders occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes clinically and functionally significant impairment, such as health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home. According to the DSM-5, a diagnosis of substance use disorder is based on evidence of impaired control, social impairment, risky use, and pharmacological criteria.³⁵

SUBSTANTIAL RELATIONSHIP

The proposed placement resource has a familial or mentoring role with the child, has spent more than casual time with the child, and has established more than a minimal bond with the child.⁶⁰

SUMMARIZING

An interview technique used to pull together thoughts, feelings, and plans expressed and developed during the interview.⁹

SUMMARY JUDGMENT

A judicial decision made on the basis of statements and evidence presented for the record without a trial. It is used when there is no dispute as to the facts of the case, and one party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.⁴

SUPERVISED INDEPENDENT LIVING SETTING

A setting where the child is living independently. The child must be subject to the supervision of the Department because the child is in the custody of the Department.

SUPERVISED VISITATION

This is a service where:

- a. visitation services are provided when a child has been placed outside of the home
- b. supervision services are provided when a child has not been removed from the family home but supervision must occur to allow for one parent to interact with the child(ren) and safety concerns must be controlled and managed
- c. supervision may also be provided to accompany a child/family to court, to allow a child to participate in family significant events such as weddings, funerals, graduations, etc. and
- d. the contractor is required to provide documentation of family strengths and areas of concern related to parental/child interaction and/or sibling interaction observed during direct supervision.²⁴

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) (FORMERLY FOOD STAMPS)

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program helps low-income people buy food. It's not necessary to be receiving other public assistance in order to be eligible, but people don't receive SNAP benefits automatically — they must apply and be found eligible.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

A Federally-funded needs-based disability program for adults and children which provides monthly cash benefits and, in most states, automatic Medicaid eligibility.⁶

SUPPORT SYSTEM

A person who is there for the youth as a friend, advisor, and trusted confidant. This is a necessary component in everyone's life, especially, the life of a youth who is living on his/her own in the community.²³

SUPPORTED

A rating used by the Administration for Children and Families to perform systematic reviews of research and evaluation on programs and services intended to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements. A program or service is designated as supported if it demonstrates a sustained favorable effect of at least 6 months beyond the end of treatment on at least one target outcome, as shown by at least one study determined to be well designed and well executed, involved a rigorous random controlled trial, and was carried out in a usual care-of-practice setting.

SUPPRESSION

A psychological defense mechanism in which a person intentionally avoids thinking about disturbing problems, desires, feelings, or experiences.⁹

T

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

Provides economic assistance and work opportunities to needy families by granting states the federal funds and wide flexibility to develop and implement their own welfare programs.⁹

TEMPORARY CUSTODY HEARING

Occurs within 7 days of a child being removed from a family home; for the purpose of determining whether a child needs to be temporarily placed in the custody of the state to assure his/her safety. This is often an *ex parte* hearing between the judge and county attorney.

TEMPORARY DELEGATION OF PARENTAL POWERS

When a parent or legal guardian of a minor child executes a power of attorney delegating to another person any of his or her powers regarding the care, custody, or property of the minor child or ward. This does not allow for the person delegated to act to consent to marriage or adoption of the minor child. This is often used where due to the expected absence of a parent another is authorized to consent to medical treatment, enrollment in school, or other academic or athletic programs, etc.

TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

Prohibits a person from an action that is likely to cause irreparable harm. This differs from an injunction in that it may be granted immediately, without notice to the opposing party, and without a hearing. It is intended to last only until a hearing can be held.⁴

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS (TPR) See Also: **Child Custody Proceeding (ICWA Specific Language)**

The legal separation of a child from his/her parents, including the transfer of custodial rights by reassignment of legal custody. This may be accomplished through:

1. Voluntary relinquishment, the surrender of a child by a parent or parents to the Department, a licensed child placement agency or an individual;
2. Judicial determination, the order of a county or juvenile court.²

For Indian children, see : CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING⁵

TESTIMONY

Evidence presented orally by witnesses during trials or before grand juries.⁴

THE ARC

An agency for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

THERAPEUTIC GROUP HOME (THGH)

This is a Medicaid residential treatment option for children with diagnosed mental health or substance abuse problems. It replaces previous Treatment Group Home and Enhanced Treatment Group Home options. A Therapeutic Group Home is designed to be home-like and community based and can have 4 to 8 youth in an environment with an organized, professional staff who deliver safety, supervision, treatment and rehabilitative services. Existing grandfathered facilities providing ThGH care may have up to 16 youth. Services in a ThGH must be provided under the direction of a licensed psychiatrist or licensed psychologist. ThGHs deliver an array of clinical, treatment, and related services, including psychiatric supports, integration with community resources, and skill- building taught within the context of a home-like setting.³³

THREE HOUSES

A tool used in Safety Organized Practice (SOP) to help guide conversations with children and engage child in danger statement and safety assessment.

THREE QUESTIONS

Questions commonly used in Safety Organized Practice (SOP) to get everyone on the same page regarding worries, what's worked, and next steps; used when completing an assessment with the family and usually used in the safety mapping process. The three questions utilized are:

1. What Are We Worried About? (Harm & future danger)
2. What's Working Well? (Strengths & Demonstrated Safety)
3. What Needs To Happen? (Safety Goals and Next Steps in Working Towards Safety)

TITLE IV-E (OR SIMPLY IV-E)

Refers to Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act, which provides federal funding through the states for child welfare and adoption subsidy when certain eligibility requirements are met.³²

TITLE IV-E PREVENTION PROGRAM PLAN

Nebraska's 5 year incremental plan for implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) to grow and improve prevention services for families, providing more comprehensive, evidence-based services to children in their own homes, with their family, with reduced levels of secondary trauma.

TITLE IV-E PREVENTION SERVICES CLEARINGHOUSE

The Title IV- E Prevention Services Clearinghouse was established by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct an objective and transparent review of research on programs and services intended to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements.

TITLE XX

Refers to a program through the Department of Health and Human Services in which a parent/caregiver can apply and, if found to be eligible, can receive Daycare (childcare) assistance each month.

TORT

A civil wrong or breach of a duty to another person, as outlined by law. A very common example of a tort is negligent operation of a motor vehicle that results in property damage and personal injury in an automobile accident.⁴

TORTURE

The infliction of intense pain to punish, coerce, or afford sadistic pleasure.^{61, 64}

TRACKER (TR) SERVICES

A contracted service for juvenile and status offenders in which a qualified adult is assigned to supervise individual youth living in the community, for purposes such as behavior monitoring, mentoring, and crisis intervention. (Service Provision Guidebook) This is an identified Safety and In-Home Service where the contractor will ensure that only youth who are adjudicated as delinquent or status offender will be provided tracker services.²⁴

TRANSCRIPT

A written, word-for-word record of what was said, either in a proceeding such as a trial or during some other conversation, as in a transcript of a hearing or oral deposition.⁴

TRANSITIONAL LIVING PLAN (TLP)

A plan describing programs and services designed to assist the youth in acquiring independent living skills. This plan must be developed for a state ward 14 years of age.²³

TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM (TLP)

Contracted program that provides direct services for eligible youth who are transiting to independent living.²³

TRAUMA

Individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

Specific sub-definitions for trauma are:

- **PRIMARY TRAUMA** is caused by a traumatic event that happens to you—you are directly exposed to the trauma.
- **SECONDARY TRAUMA** is caused by a secondary exposure to trauma: you are not in the actual danger; you are not at the scene of the traumatic event seeing firsthand the result of the shooting rampage or an accident. Instead, those stories are described to you verbally, in writing or through audio or video recordings.
- **VICARIOUS TRAUMA** describes the transformation of our view of the world due to the cumulative exposure to traumatic images and stories. This is accompanied by experiences recounted by our clients.
- **SECONDARY TRAUMATIC STRESS** is the result of bearing witness to a traumatic event (or to a series of events), which can lead to PTSD-like symptoms (hearing a graphic account of abuse, debriefing first responders, etc.)¹⁸

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

An organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. Trauma Informed Care also emphasizes physical, psychological and emotional safety for both consumers and providers, and helps survivors rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.³⁶

TRAUMA-FOCUSED COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY (TF-CBT)

A conjoint child and parent psychotherapy model for children who are experiencing significant emotional and behavioral difficulties related to traumatic life events. TF-CBT was developed for children ages 3-18. TF-CBT is rated well-supported and high for child welfare relevance on the CEBC. TF-CBT is rated promising in the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse.

TREATMENT FOSTER HOME (TFH)

This service has been replaced by Professional Resource Family Care (PRFC). As of July 1, 2011, this service is no longer available from Medicaid.

TRIAL HOME VISIT

A placement of a court-involved juvenile who goes from a foster care placement back to his or her legal parent or parents or guardian but remains as a ward of the state.^{61, 64}

TRIBAL CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

A tribal governmental agency that provides protection and safety services to tribal children. Tribal child protective services may be very similar to state child protective services but it may be very different in structure, services, communications, etc.⁵

TRIBAL CODE

The body of laws that governs the tribe and tribal members. Laws may be similar to or very different from state and/or federal laws.⁵

TRIBAL COURT

A court with jurisdiction over child custody proceedings and which is either a Court of Indian Offenses, a court established and operated under the code or custom of an Indian tribe, or any other administrative body of a tribe which is vested with authority over child custody proceedings. Many tribes, including all four Nebraska tribes, operate tribal courts, and tribal court orders must be given full faith and credit.⁶⁵

TRIBAL ICWA SPECIALIST

A staff person employed by a tribe who is responsible for case management of ICWA cases. This person may also be responsible to represent the tribe's legal interests in ICWA cases and is allowed to fully participate in court proceedings even if they are not a licensed attorney. Tribes may also designate other persons to represent their interests, as needed.⁶⁵

TRIBAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY WORKER (TPSW)

A tribal child protective services employee employed by the Omaha, Santee Sioux or Winnebago Tribes and listed on N-FOCUS with similar duties to those of an NDHHS CFS Specialist.⁵

TRIBAL RESOLUTION

An official written statement by a tribe. In regard to ICWA placement preferences, a tribal resolution is a statement of the placement preferences that the CFS Specialist must follow in determining placement for the child.⁵

TRIBAL SERVICE AREA

A geographic area, as defined by the applicable Indian tribe or tribes, in which tribal services and programs are provided to Indians. For example, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska does not have a reservation and has a service area which includes twelve counties in Nebraska, two counties in Iowa and one county in South Dakota.⁶⁵

TRIBAL WARD

A child who meets the definition of a ward of the tribe under the tribal code. For purposes of placement at the YRTC's by a tribal court, the Tribal Ward must be a juvenile less than eighteen (18) years of age at the time of the law violation, he or she must have been adjudicated as a law violator by the Tribal Court before he or she may be legally committed to care and custody of DHHS-OJS and placed at a YRTC, and he or she must be less than nineteen (19) years of age when so placed at a YRTC. Discharge is mandatory when the juvenile reaches nineteen (19) years of age.⁵

U

UNABLE TO LOCATE

The young adult has not been located and/or fails to respond to contact by the Department for at least 30 calendar days despite a good faith effort on the part of the Department to contact or locate the young adult.⁴³

The subjects of the maltreatment report have not been located after a good faith effort on the part of the Department.^{42, 61, 64}

UNCOPE

A six item brief screening tool used to identify individuals who are at risk of substance addiction. The tool was developed in 1999 by Norman Hoffman, Ph.D.⁶¹

UNFOUNDED

All reports not classified as court substantiated, court pending, agency substantiated, or unable to locate.^{61, 64}

UNREASONABLE USE OF CONFINEMENT/RESTRAINTS

The use of restraints without a physician's order; the parent/caregiver using confinement to a chair, bed, corner or similar environment for unreasonable periods of time is considered physical abuse.^{61, 64}

UNSAFE

One or more safety threats are present, and placement is the only protective intervention possible for one or more children. Without placement, one or more children will likely be in imminent danger of serious harm. An out-of-home safety plan is required.³

UNSAFE CHILD

A child for whom one or more safety threats are present and placement is the only protective intervention possible. Without placement, the children will likely be in imminent danger of serious harm.^{61, 64}

UPHOLD

The decision of an appellate court not to reverse a lower court decision.⁴

URGENT PLACEMENT WITH RELATIVE OR KIN

A placement exists when a child is residing in a licensed foster home, not previously known to them, and a relative or kinship home has been identified, is available and able, and it is in the child's best interest to be placed there.²

URINALYSIS (UA)

A behavior management service for committed juvenile offenders to screen the youths' urine for the presence of illegal or inappropriate drug use. Each juvenile offender is required to submit to random urinalysis at the discretion of his/her assigned Juvenile Services Officer.

UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT (UM)

A person or group of persons working in the local Child Welfare and Juvenile Services office to review and make decisions about authorization of higher-cost services for children and youths. In some areas, the utilization management function is carried out by a single Resource Development worker.

V

VENUE

The geographical location in which a case is tried.⁴

VERBAL CUE

A nondirective listening technique that encourages a person to continue speaking, for example – “right,” “sure,” “yes.”⁹

VERDICT

The decision of a petit jury or a judge.⁴

VIOLENCE

The exertion of physical force so as to injure, abuse, or control.^{61, 64}

VIOLENT CRIME

A child who has witnessed a homicide, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery or an assault which resulted in serious bodily injury or included the use of a weapon or the threat of the use of a weapon. This would include a child who has witnessed domestic violence resulting in serious bodily injury to a household member.³⁹

VISITATION PLAN See Also: **Parenting Time Plan**

Written guidelines to help maintain frequent and regular contact among children/youth in out-of home placement with their parents and siblings. This term is used interchangeably with the term "parenting time plan", although "parenting time plan" is the preferred terminology to be used.

VOIR DIRE

"Voir dire" is a phrase meaning "to speak the truth." The process by which judges and lawyers select a petit jury from among those eligible to serve, by questioning them to determine knowledge of the facts of the case and a willingness to decide the case only on the evidence presented in court. Also the process by which an adverse party may challenge or explore the qualifications of a witness proffered by another party as an expert witness.⁴

VOLUNTARY RELINQUISHMENT OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

The process by which a parent voluntarily ends both the rights and responsibilities of parenting a particular child. (390 N.A.C. 8-004) For Indian children, relinquishments require that the consent to the relinquishment be recorded in court and the judge must sign a certification that the terms and consequences of the consent were fully explained in detail and understood by the parent or Indian custodian. The consent must be taken in court even in non-court involved cases and private adoptions.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE AND SUPPORT AGREEMENT

The agreement entered into between the Department and a young adult for the young adult to participate in the Bridge to Independence Program.⁴³

VULNERABLE CHILD

A child/youth that does not have sufficient capacity for self-protection.^{61, 64}

W**WAITING CHILDREN**

Children in the public child welfare system who cannot return to their birth homes and need permanent, loving families to help them grow up safely and securely. Preferred term is "child who waits for a family."⁸

WARRANT

A written judicial order directing the arrest of a party. A search warrant orders that a specific location be searched for items, which if found, can be used in court as evidence.⁴

WELL-SUPPORTED

A rating used by the Administration for Children and Families to perform systematic reviews of research and evaluation on programs and services intended to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements. A program or service is designated as **well-supported** if it demonstrates a sustained favorable effect of at least 12 months beyond the end of treatment on at least one target outcome, as shown by at least two studies determined to be well designed and well executed, involved a rigorous random controlled trial, (*or, if not available, a study using a rigorous quasi-experimental research design*), and was carried out in a usual care-of-practice setting.

WITHHOLDING OF MEDICALLY INDICATED TREATMENT

The failure to respond to the infant's life threatening conditions by failure to provide treatment (including appropriate nutrition, hydration, and medication) which, in the treating physician's (or physicians') reasonable medical judgment, will be most likely to be effective in ameliorating or correcting all such conditions.²

WITNESS

A person whose declaration under oath is received as evidence for any purpose.⁹

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

A Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) which provides supplemental foods, health care, referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

WRIT

A formal written command, issued from the court, requiring the performance of a specific act.⁴

WRIT OF CERTIORARI

An order issued by the Supreme Court directing the lower court to transmit records for a case for which it will hear on appeal.⁴

Y

YOUNG ADULT

An individual who has attained nineteen years of age but who has not attained twenty-one years of age, and who is an applicant for or participant in the Bridge to Independence Program.⁴³

YOUTH CARE BILL OF RIGHTS

A document that must be presented to a foster youth within 72 hours of being placed in a foster family home or child care institution and at every dispositional, review and permanency planning hearing. This document describes, the rights of the child with respect to education, health, visitation and court participation and additional rights.

YOUTH LEVEL OF SERVICE (YLS)

The standardized assessment instrument used for youth adjudicated juvenile offenders to assess risk, need, and response factors; to determine treatment needs of the youth; and assist in development of the

case plan.²

YOUTH REHABILITATION AND TREATMENT CENTER - LINCOLN (YRTC-L)

One of three staff-secure institutional programs and facilities operated by NDHHS-OJS. YRTC-Lincoln is the YRTC system's most restrictive facility for youth that are not responding to treatment at YRTC-Kearney. YRTC-Lincoln has 20 rooms divided into separate pods and houses both males and females. The intent is for youth to transition back to YRTC-Kearney or YRTC-Geneva after their behavior has stabilized at YRTC-Lincoln. Youths can be assigned to a YRTC placement only through the order of a judge.

YOUTH REHABILITATION AND TREATMENT CENTER – GENEVA (YRTC-G)

One of three staff-secure institutional programs and facilities operated by NDHHS-OJS. YRTC-Geneva is for female juvenile offenders who cannot be safely or successfully managed in other less-restrictive community placements. Both male and female youths go through intake, assessment and Phase programming at YRTC-Kearney. As young women progress through the program, they finish up their programming at YRTC-Geneva to help with the transition back into the community. YRTC-Geneva is a less restrictive than YRTC-Kearney and “mimics a home environment”. YRTC-Geneva houses three to six females. Youths can be assigned to a YRTC placement only through the order of a judge.

YOUTH REHABILITATION AND TREATMENT CENTER – KEARNEY (YRTC-K)

One of three staff-secure institutional programs and facilities operated by NDHHS-OJS. YRTC-Kearney serves as a hub for the YRTC system. Male and female juvenile offenders who cannot be safely or successfully managed in other less-restrictive community placements, go through intake, assessment and Phase programming at YRTC-Kearney. Male youth remain at YRTC-Kearney to finish up their programming to help with the transition back into the community. Youths can be assigned to a YRTC placement only through the order of a judge.

YOUTH RESPONSIBILITIES AGREEMENT

The title of the behavior management agreement for status offenders who are committed to NDHHS.

YOUTH SECURITY SPECIALIST

Staff at a YRTC who work directly with the juvenile offenders; they monitor and record behaviors, intervene to maintain safety, and guide and facilitate the daily activities of a group of YRTC residents.

- ¹ CCFL Website, http://ccfl.unl.edu/projects_outreach/projects/previous/RCCANT.php
- ² Glossary, NDHHS-DCFS Protection and Safety (2015)
- ³ Structured Decision Making System for Child Protective Services provided by the Children’s Research Center
- ⁴ UNL–CCFL Legal Training Team
- ⁵ Provided by the Indian Child Welfare Program Specialist, Policy Section, Division of Children and Family Services Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (2009)
- ⁶ Adoption.com, <http://library.adoption.com/articles/helpful-adoption-terms-to-know.html>
- ⁷ Adoption Nebraska: <http://www.adoptionnebraska.com>
- ⁸ Child Welfare: <http://www.childwelfare.gov>
- ⁹ Helping in Child Protective Services: A Competency-Based Casework Handbook, 2nd Edition. (2004)
- ¹⁰ Adoption Glossary: <http://glossary.adoption.com>
- ¹¹ Provided by the DHHS-CCFL Adoption Training Team
- ¹² NDHHS Administrative Memos #16-2013 and #17-2013
- ¹³ Adoption Services Guidebook, http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Guidebooks/Adoption%20Services%20Guidebook.pdf
- ¹⁴ NDHHS Service Provision Guidebook
- ¹⁵ Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph.D.
- ¹⁶ NDHHS, 2015 http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/BridgeToIndependence/Pages/Home.aspx
- ¹⁷ Bureau of Indian Affairs web site: <http://www.bia.gov/>
- ¹⁸ Excerpted from: The Compassion Fatigue Workbook, Francoise Mathieu
- ¹⁹ Glossary of Terms Children and Family Services, http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Documents/07_Glossary_of_Terms.pdf
- ²⁰ NDHHS-DCFS website 2015, http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Pages/jus_jusindex.aspx
- ²¹ Rule 51 (Special Education rules in 92 N.A.C. 51), or from 480 N.A.C.5-000 and 10-000 (Services to Children with Disabilities)
- ²² UNL–CCFL Children, Youth, and Families Training Team, 2015
- ²³ NDHHS Independent Living Guidebook, 2005
- ²⁴ NDHHS-DCFS Safety and In-Home Services Contract
- ²⁵ NDHHS, communication M. Hamel, 2015
- ²⁶ NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #16-2015
- ²⁷ NDHHS web site: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- ²⁸ Based on materials provided by E.M. Grealish, expert in Family/Person Centered Practice
- ²⁹ National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP), 2015
- ³⁰ Right Turn®, <http://www.rightturnne.org/>
- ³¹ Central Plains Center for Services, 2013
- ³² NFAPA Adoption: A Guide for Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Families http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Documents/AdpGuide.pdf
- ³³ Medical Necessity Criteria Guidelines, Adapted for Magellan Behavioral Health of Nebraska, Inc., 2013
- ³⁴ UNL–CCFL Case Management Training Team
- ³⁵ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), <http://www.samhsa.gov/disorders/substance-use>
- ³⁶ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), <http://www.samhsa.gov/nctic>
- ³⁷ Provided by the Foster Care Program Specialist, Policy Section, Division of Children and Family Services Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (2015)
- ³⁸ NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #20-2015
- ³⁹ NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #21-2015
- ⁴⁰ Adapted from 395 NAC 3-001.10
- ⁴¹ NDHHS Administrative Memo #15-2010
- ⁴² NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #2-2015

- 43 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #5-2015
- 44 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #6-2015
- 45 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #9-2015
- 46 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #26-2015
- 47 NDHHS Common Member Questions, December 29, 2016, <http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Documents/Common%20Questions%20and%20Answers%20for%20Members%2012.29.16.pdf>
- 48 NDHHS, communication C. Pfeifer, DCFS Program Specialist, October 13, 2016, correction to NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #27-2016 (corrected age is through age 18)
- 49 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #28-2015
- 50 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #30-2015
- 51 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #32-2015
- 52 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #8-2016
- 53 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #10-2016
- 54 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #14-2016
- 55 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #18-2016
- 56 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #19-2016
- 57 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #21-2016
- 58 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #22-2016
- 59 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #24-2016
- 60 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #26-2016
- 61 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #27-2016
- 62 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #30-2016
- 63 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #33-2016
- 64 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #34-2016
- 65 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #27-2015
- 66 NDHHS Protection & Safety Procedure Update #36-2016

ACRONYMS AND INITIALISMS IN CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

IV-E	Title IV-E of the Social Security Act

504	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

A&D WAIVER	Aged and Disabled Waiver
AA	Alcoholics Anonymous or Affirmative Action
AAA	Area Agency on Aging
AABD	Assistance to the Aged, Blind and Disabled
ACF	Administration for Children and Families
ACLD	Association for Children with Learning Disabilities
ACSW	Academy of Certified Social Workers
AD	Aid to the Disabled
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADC	Aid to Dependent Children (also known as AFDC)
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
AFCARS	Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System
AFS	Adolescent and Family Services
AHT	Abusive Head Trauma
AILA	Approved Informal Living Arrangement
APS	Adult Protective Services
APSS	Assessment of Placement Safety and Suitability
ARSATP	Adolescent Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program
ASAM	American Society of Addiction Medicine
ASFA	Adoption and Safe Families Act
ASFC	Agency Supported Foster Care
ASI	Addiction Severity Index
ASL	American Sign Language

B2I	Bridge to Independence Program (DHHS)
BD	Behavior Disorder
BH	Behavioral Health, Division of
BH	Behavioral Health, Division Of
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BPA	Biopsychosocial Assessment
BSDC	Beatrice State Development Center
BTI	Boys Town Institute for Child Health Improvement

CA	Chronological Age
CA/N	Child Abuse and Neglect
CAA	Community Action Agency
CAFAS	Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale
CAP	Community Action Program or Corrective Action Plan
CAPTA	Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocate
CASE MANAGER	CFS Child & Family Services Specialist (CFSS)
CASI	Comprehensive Adolescent Severity Inventory
CB	Children's Bureau
CBT	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
CBT	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
CC	Child Care
CCA	Child Caring Agency
CCC	Community Continuum of Care (Lancaster)
CCDF	Child Care and Development Fund
CCFL	Center on Children, Families, and the Law

CCPT	Child Centered Play Therapy
CCPT	Child Centered Play Therapy
CCS	Comprehensive Community Services (Douglas/Sarpy)
CD	Chemical Dependency or Conduct Disorder
CDC	Centers for Disease Control
CDT	Competency Development Tool
CEBC	California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse
CEC	Council for Exceptional Children
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFS	Child and Family Services
CFS OR DIVISION	Division of Children & Family Services
CFS OR DIVISION	Division of Children & Family Services
CFSP	Child & Family Services Plan
CFSR	Child and Family Services Review
CFSS	Child and Family Services Specialist
CGS	Child Guidance Services
CHARTS	Children Have A Right To Support
CJ	Criminal Justice
CMAP	Children's Medical Assistance Programs
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
CO	Central Office
COA	Change of Address
COBRA	Consolidated Omnibus Reconciliation Act
COL	Conditions of Liberty
COLA	Cost of Living Adjustment or Cost of Living Allowance
COMPASS	Children's Outcomes Measured in Protection and Safety Statistics
COO	Chief Operating Officer
CP	Cerebral Palsy
CPA	Child Placing Agency
CPP	Child-Parent Psychotherapy
CPP	Child-Parent Psychotherapy
CPS	Child Protective Services
CQI	Comprehensive Quality Improvement
CQI	Comprehensive (Or Continuous) Quality Improvement
CR	Central Register
CSA	Central Service Area
CSE	Child Support Enforcement
CSHCN	Children with Special Health Care Needs
CTA	Community Treatment Aides
CW	Child Welfare
CW & JS	Child Welfare and Juvenile Services
CWD	Children with Disabilities
CWIS	Child Welfare Information System
CWLA	Child Welfare League of America
CWU	Child Welfare Unit
CY	Calendar Year

DAS	Department of Administrative Services
DBH	Division of Behavioral Health
DCFS	Division of Children and Family Services
DD	Developmental Disabilities, Developmentally Disabled, Developmental Delay
DDSC	Developmental Disability Services Coordination
DEC	Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children
DEPARTMENT	Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
DEPARTMENT	Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services

DMLTC	Division of Medicaid and Long Term Care
DOB	Date of Birth
DOE	Department of Education
DSM-5	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Version 5
DSM-IV-TR	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders

EA	Emergency Assistance or Economic Assistance
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
EBP	Evidence-Based Practice
EBT	Electronic Benefit Transfer
ECICC	Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council
ECO	Early Childhood Outcomes (known in Nebraska as “Results Matter”)
ECSE	Early Childhood Special Education
ECTC	Early Childhood Training Center
ED/BD	Emotionally Disturbed/Behaviorally Disordered
EDN	Early Development Network
EF	Employment First
EFC	Emergency Foster Care
EFGC	Expedited Family Group Conference
EI	Early Intervention
EI WAIVER	Early Intervention Waiver
EIS	Early Intervention System
EIV	Earned Income Verification
EM	Electronic Monitoring
EMAC	Enhanced Medical Assistance for Children
EMDR	Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy
EMDR	Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy
EMH	Educable Mentally Handicapped
EMTALA	Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act
ENCOMH	Eastern Nebraska Community Office of Mental Health
ENCOR	Eastern Nebraska Community Office of Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
EOM	End of Month
EPC	Emergency Protective Custody
EPSDT	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment
ESA	Eastern Service Area
ESC	Emergency Shelter Center
ESEA	Elementary and Secondary Education Act
ESH	Emergency Shelter Home
ESU	Educational Service Unit
ETGH	Enhanced Treatment Group Home
ETV	Educational and Training Voucher

F/PCP	Family/Person Centered Practice
FAE	Fetal Alcohol Effects
FAMILY FIRST OR FAFSA	Federal Student Financial Aid First Prevention Services Act
FAPE	Free and Appropriate Public Education
FAS	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
FASD	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
FAST	Family Action Support Team
FC	Foster Care
FCP	Family Centered Practice (See also F/PCP)
FCPAY	Foster Care Payment Determination Checklist
FCPP	Foster Care Prevention Plan
FCRB	Foster Care Review Board
FCT	Family Centered Treatment
FEDERAL CLEARINGHOUSE	First Prevention Services Clearinghouse

FERPA	Family Educational Right and Privacy Act
FFT	Functional Family Therapy
FGC	Family Group Conferencing
FGDM	Family Group Decision Making
FH	Foster Home
FICC	Federal Interagency Coordinating Council
FPL	Federal Poverty Level
FPLS	Federal Parent Locator Services
FS	Food Stamps or Family Support
FS-VOS	Family Support – Visitation Only Services
FSNA	Family Strengths and Needs Assessment
FSP	Food Stamp Program
FSS	Family Support Services
FSW	Family Support Worker
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
FTM	Family Team Meeting
FTS	Field Training Specialist
FTT	Failure to Thrive
FWP	Former Ward Program
FYC	Foster Youth Council

GA	General Assistance
GAL	Guardian ad Litem
GAP	Federal Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program
GBC	Gaps and Barriers Committee (Early Childhood Interagency Coordination Council)
GED	General Educational Development
GH	Group Home
GHA	Group Home (A)
GHB	Group Home II (B)
GPRA	Government Performance and Results Act
GYAC	Governor's Youth Advisory Council

HBFT	Home Based Family Therapy
HFA	Healthy Families America
HHA	Home Health Agency
HHS	Health and Human Services (short version of DHHS)
HHS-OJS	Health and Human Services - Office of Juvenile Services
HHSS	Health and Human Services System (former title of HHS)
HI	Hearing Impaired
HIPAA	Health Information Portability and Accountability Act
HRD	Human Resources and Development
HSSCO	Head Start State Collaboration Office
HUD	Housing and Urban Development

I&R	Information and Referral
IAES	Interim Alternative Educational Setting
ICAMA	Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance
ICE	Immigration and Customs Enforcement, formerly INS: Immigration & Naturalization Service
ICHARTS	Internet – Children Have a Right to Support
ICJ	Interstate Compact on Juveniles
ICPC	Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
ICWA	Indian Child Welfare Acts
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IDEIA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act
IDI	Initial Diagnostic Interview

IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
IEAPA	Inter-Ethnic Adoption Provisions Act
IEE	Independent Educational Evaluation
IEP	Individual Education Plan
IFP	Intensive Family Preservation
IFSP	Individualized Family Service Plan
IIS	Intensive Individualized Services
IL	Independent Living
ILCD	Improving Learning for Children with Disabilities
IM	Income Maintenance or Information Memorandum
IMFC	Income Maintenance Foster Care
IOP	Intensive Outpatient Psychiatric
IP	Inpatient Psychiatric
IPP	Individual Program Plan
IQ	Intelligence Quotient
IS&T	Information Systems and Technology
IT	Information Technology
ITC	Industrial Training Center (sheltered workshop)

JD	Juvenile Delinquent
JJ	Juvenile Justice
JJDPA	Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act
JO	Juvenile Offender
JS	Juvenile Services
JSO	Juvenile Services Officer

LADC	Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor
LB	Legislative Bill
LD	Learning Disabled
LDA	Learning Disabilities Association
LE	Law Enforcement
LEA	Law Enforcement Agency
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
LFO	Local Field Office
LIEAP	Low Income Energy Assistance Program
LMHP	Licensed Mental Health Practitioner
LPR	Legal Permanent Resident
LRC	Lincoln Regional Center
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment
LTC	Long Term Care
LTFC	Long Term Foster Care

MA	Mental Age
MAC	Medical Assistance for Children
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MCHB	Maternal and Child Health Bureau
MDT	Multidisciplinary Team
MEPA	Multi-Ethnic Placement Act
MH	Mentally Handicapped or Mental Health
MHCP	Medically Handicapped Children's Program
MHSA	Mental Health Substance Abuse
MIECHV	Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting
MIPS	Medicaid in Public Schools
MMC	Medicaid Managed Care
MMIS	Medicaid Management Information System
MOE	Maintenance of Effort

MR	Mental Retardation
MST	Multi-Systemic Therapy

N-FOCUS	Nebraska Family Online Client User System
NAC	Nebraska Administrative Code
NAEYC	National Association for the Education of Young Children
NAMI	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
NAPE	Nebraska Association of Public Employees
NAS	Nebraska Advocacy Services
NBHS	Nebraska Behavioral Health System
NCANDS	National Child Abuse And Neglect Data System
NCECBVI	Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired
NCFF	Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
NCIC	National Crime Information Center
NCLB	No Child Left Behind
NDE	Nebraska Department of Education
NDEN	Nebraska Data Exchange Network
NDHHS	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
NE	Natural Environment
NE-CFSR	Nebraska Child and Family Services Review
NEAT	Nebraska Educational Assistive Technology Center
NFAPA	Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association
NHC	Nebraska Health Connection
NICHCY	National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities
NICU	Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit
NICWA	Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act
NMAP	Nebraska Medicaid Assistance Program
NMMCP	Nebraska Medicaid Managed Care Program
NORD	National Organization for Rare Disorders
NRC	Norfolk Regional Center
NRE	Non-Residential Evaluation
NREPP	National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices
NRRS	Nebraska Resource and Referral System
NRS	Nebraska Revised Statutes
NSA	Northern Service Area
NSOR	Nebraska Sex Offender Registry
NYTD	National Youth in Transition Database

O&M	Orientation and Mobility
OASDI	Old-Age, Survivors, & Disability Insurance
OCR	Office of Civil Rights
ODD	Oppositional Defiant Disorder
OJJDP	Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
OJS	Office of Juvenile Services
OJT	On-the-Job Training
OP	Outpatient Psychiatric
OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs
OSERS	Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services
OSHA	Occupation Safety and Health Act
OT	Occupational Therapy or Overtime

P&S OR PS	Protection and Safety
PA	Public Assistance
PALS	Preparation for Adult Living Services
PARA	Paraprofessional or Para-educator
PASS	Plans to Achieve Self-Support

PCIT	Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
PDE	Pre-Disposition Evaluation
PDI	Pre-Disposition Investigation
PECAN	Prevent Excessive Cryptic Acronyms in Nebraska
PH	Public Health, Division of
PIP	Program Improvement Plan
PLEP	Present Level of Educational Performance
PO	Parole Officer or Probation Officer
POS	Protection Order
PPI	Provider Performance Improvement
PRFC	Professional Resource Family Care
PRIDE	Parent Resources for Information Development and Education
PRTF	Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility
PSA	Protection and Safety Administrator
PSS	Protection and Safety Supervisor
PST	Protection and Safety Trainee
PSW	Protection and Safety Worker
PT	Physical Therapy
PTI	Parent Training and Information
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
QPR	Question, Persuade, Refer

R&CS	Residential and Community Service
RAD	Reactive Attachment Disorder
RBA	Results Based Accountability
RC	Respite Care
RD	Resource Development
RDA	Resource Development Administrator
RE	Residential Evaluation
RFB	Request for Bids
RFP	Request for Proposal
RFQ	Request for Qualifications
RH	Respite Home
RN	Registered Nurse
RPPS	Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard
RTF	Request to file
RTI	Response to Intervention

SA	Service Area or Substance Abuse
SAA	Service Area Administrator
SACWIS	Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System
SAM	School Age Medical
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SDM	Structured Decision Making
SDX	State Data Exchange
SEAC	Special Education Advisory Council
SED	Severely Emotionally Disturbed
SEE	Signed Exact English
SEMAC	Super Enhanced Medical Assistance for Children
SESA	Southeast Service Area
SEGIS	Special Education Student Information System
SEW	State Employer Wage File
SFY	State Fiscal Year

SIJS	Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
SLD	Specific Learning Disabilities
SLI	Speech Language Impairment
SLP	Speech Language Pathologist
SN	Special Needs
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
SO	Status Offender or Sex Offender
SOB	State Office Building
SOP	Safety Organized Practice
SOR	Sex Offender Registry
SPED	Special Education
SS	Seeking Safety: a present-focused treatment for clients with a history of trauma and substance abuse
SSA	Social Security Administration, Social Services Administrator, or Social Security Act
SSBG	Social Services Block Grant
SSCF	Social Services for Children and Families
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
SSN	Social Security Number
SSW	Social Services Worker
SWI	Standard Work Instruction

TAB	Training Administration Building
TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
TBR	Transitional Benefit Report
TF-CBT	Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
TFC	Treatment Foster Care
TFH	Treatment Foster Home
TGH	Treatment Group Home
THE ARC	An agency for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
THGH	Therapeutic Group Home
TLP	Transitional Living Program or Transitional Living Plan
TMA	Transitional Medical Assistance
TPR	Termination of Parental Rights
TPSW	Tribal Protection and Safety Worker
TR	Tracker
TR	Tracker

UA	Urinalysis
UC	Unemployment Compensation
UI	Unemployment Insurance
UM	Utilization Management

VI	Visual Impairment
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation
VSS	Visitation Support Services

WAIS	Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale
WIC	Women, Infants and Children
WISC	Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children
WSA	Western Service Area

YLS/CMI	Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory
YRTC-G	Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center - Geneva



In Partnership
Nebraska DHHS and UNL CCFL

For additional copies of this document, please contact Shelly Johnson

UNL - Center on Children, Families, and the Law

206 S. 13th Street, Suite 1000

Lincoln, NE 68588-0227

Phone: (402) 472-3479

FAX: (402) 472-8412

<http://ccfl.unl.edu>

This project is supported by contract number 79669 04 from the State of Nebraska.