

Terms, Definitions, Resources

Term	Definition or Description
ASFA	Adoption and Safe Families Act 1997
CAPTA	Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
CFSP	Child and Family Service Plan
DHS	Department of Human Services
DFCS	Division/Department of Family and Children Services
PSSF	Promoting Safe and Stable Families
Adoption Promotion	Activities designed to promote adoption or the establishment of legal guardianship for children in care.
Adoption Promotion and Post- Permanency Services	Adoption promotion and post- permanency services are provided to children and their families when children have been removed from the home and for whom reunification is not likely an option, to support other permanency options or to families and children transitioning to or from temporary placements to reduce the trauma of placement and improve the likelihood of a successful transition to permanency, including youth aging out or who have aged out of foster care.
<i>Behavior Management</i>	A plan of specific interventions and strategies that is developed as a component of an individualized action plan to provide the caregiver or the child with guidance in affecting prescribed changes and outcomes in the child's behavior, attitude or coping ability that will positively impact family functioning.
<i>Service Coordination/ Case Management</i>	The coordination and monitoring of services, case review, evaluation and documentation of individual case plans including participation, if requested, in case staffings convened by DFCS for mutual clients. <i>(Note: PSSF limits service coordination /case management fees to no more than 20% of the total cost of services for each proposal.)</i>
Child Abuse and Neglect	Federal legislation provides a foundation for states by identifying a minimum set of acts or behaviors that define child abuse and neglect. The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) (42 U.S.C.A. §5106g), as amended by the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003, defines child abuse and neglect as, at minimum:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death,

serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or

- An act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.
- This definition of child abuse and neglect refers specifically to parents and other caregivers. A "child" under this definition generally means a person who is under the age of 18 or who is not an emancipated minor.

<i>Child/Family Assessments</i>	Assessments, if required, should be completed prior to or at the commencement of services and should identify individual and family strengths and needs in order to facilitate the development of an individual service plan that will be utilized in the monitoring and evaluation of family progress while services are provided. A standardized assessment tool or customized assessment tool (designed by provider for specific target population) may be used.
<i>Child Care</i>	Child care provided for a specified period to facilitate caregiver participation in program activities or services or to enhance child abuse and neglect prevention efforts, such as after-school supervision.
<i>Client Transportation</i>	Transportation to facilitate family or individual participation in on-site services or transportation provided to assist individuals or families without transportation resources to access community resources.
<i>Crisis Intervention</i>	Short period of intensive therapeutic intervention for families experiencing crisis. Services are to be provided by clinically licensed professionals, carrying caseloads not to exceed 10 families and average <u>service duration of 3 to 6 months</u> . Services should be available to families 24 hours a day in the home or other environments accessible to the family.
<i>Diversion</i>	Traditionally, child welfare agencies have responded to allegations of child abuse and neglect by investigating the report, determining whether maltreatment has occurred or if the child is at risk, and putting an appropriate intervention in place. Many states and localities are moving to a more family-centered approach called alternative response, differential response, or multiple response (or diversion). In these models, the focus is on assessing the strengths and needs of the family and child while ensuring the child's safety, usually without requiring a determination regarding maltreatment. Families may receive services through diversion to community agencies.
<i>Effective Discipline</i>	Training that provides the caregiver with strategies that improve family functioning by encouraging the consistent use of effective interventions and alternatives to the use of corporal discipline.
<i>Employment Training/ Job Skills</i>	Instruction and/or supports provided to youth or adults, individuals or groups, designed to enhance skills, support and encourage individual goals and improve employment opportunities.

Family-Centered Practice	Family-centered practice is a way of working with families, both formally and informally, across service systems to enhance their capacity to care for and protect their children. It focuses on the needs and welfare of children within the context of their families and communities. Family-centered practice recognizes the strengths of family relationships and builds on these strengths to achieve optimal outcomes. Family is defined broadly to include birth, blended, kinship, and foster and adoptive families.
<i>Family Life Skills</i>	Classes or individual instruction designed to help individuals improve basic living skills such as managing a budget, managing a household, etc.
Family Team Meetings (FTM)	Forums convened by DFCS as a component of diversion or family preservation cases to identify family resources, evaluate child and family progress, modify steps and services that are not effective, and address re-emergent concerns to facilitate achievement of case plan goals.
Family Support Services (FSS)	Family support services are community-based services that assist and support parents in their role as caregivers. Family support services promote parental competency and healthy child development by helping parents enhance their strengths and resolve problems that can lead to child maltreatment, developmental delays, and family disruption. Preventing child abuse and/or neglect, and child protective services intervention is a key outcome. Services and supports provided to address risk factors PRIOR to intervention by DFCS to prevent CPS intervention.
Family Preservation and Support Services (FPS)	Family preservation services are short-term, family-focused, and community-based services designed to help families cope with significant stresses or problems that interfere with their ability to nurture their children. The goal of family preservation services is to maintain children with their families whenever it can be done safely. Services are most often provided to families that have come to the attention of the child welfare, mental health, or juvenile justice systems because of child abuse or neglect, child behavioral health challenges, delinquency, or serious parent-child conflict. Preventing placement of children in out-of-home care is a key outcome. Services and supports provided to open CPS cases to address risk factors that may precipitate removal of children.
<i>Follow-Up Services</i>	Follow-up contact to provide ongoing support of primary service objectives. May include home visits, drop-ins, on-site appointments, and/or telephone contact.
<i>Healthcare Screening/Services</i>	Healthcare screening or services for specific child or caregiver health-related problems (physical, mental or developmental) or for specific tests for service eligibility such as drug screens.

Healthy Marriage/ Co-Parenting Education	Healthy Marriage and Co-Parenting Support Initiatives are designed to improve child and family well-being and permanency outcomes for children and to promote and strengthen marriages and stable parental relationships. Services should teach couples how to build and maintain healthy, stable marriage and co-parenting relationships, handle stress and prevent breakdown.
<i>Information & Referral Services</i>	To facilitate the access and utilization of community-based resources by families for long-term family support. Includes the identification and coordination of referrals and <u>monitoring</u> of resources for responsiveness and effectiveness in meeting the family needs.
<i>Legal Advocacy/Counseling</i>	Legal consultation or advocacy services provided to a family or individual engaged in child deprivation, child custody or permanency proceedings.
<i>Mentoring Services</i>	Mentoring services are designed to nurture a relationship between children and/or adults and appropriate role models.
<i>Parent/Child Enrichment Activities</i>	Facilitated group activity such as a field trip, parent/child dinner, holiday gathering, etc. sponsored and coordinated to facilitate positive parent and child interaction.
<i>Parent Education/Parenting</i>	Curriculum-based parent education/parenting skills training provided to caregivers in the home or facilitated in an interactive group setting conducted at a community-based facility to enhance parent capacity to care for and meet the needs of their children. Includes positive parenting practices, positive parent-child relationships, and child health and development to enhance parental self-sufficiency and prevent child abuse and neglect.
<i>Peer Support</i>	Facilitated support or informal counseling on-site or at other community-based facility for a group of children, youth or adults with a common objective or circumstance. This does not include support groups with a therapeutic or counseling component.
Residential Aftercare Services	Pre-reunification and post-placement supports and/or services provided to a family, on-site, in the home or at a residential center to facilitate the transition of the family or individual from <u>residential treatment program</u> to another setting.
<i>Respite Care</i>	Short-term relief provided to a caregiver (parent, foster parent, adoptive parent, relative caregiver) with primary responsibility for intensive supervision or care of a child or family member.
<i>Stress/Anger Management</i>	Services or training to address the source and impact of stress on family functioning and practical application of coping mechanisms.
<i>Substance Abuse Recovery Support</i>	Services provided to a family, individual or group to prevent relapse and continued use of controlled substances.
<i>Substance Abuse Treatment</i>	Professional treatment plan developed and executed for the express purpose of rehabilitation of an individual who has a dependency on either drugs or alcohol.

<i>Supervised Family Visitation</i>	Structured family interaction and enrichment activities conducted in neutral community-based settings for children in state custody and their families to facilitate permanency.
<i>Therapeutic Counseling</i>	Therapeutic and psychological support services provided by a licensed mental health professional experienced in dealing with children and families with child welfare related issues.
Time-Limited Reunification Services (TLR)	<p>Time-limited reunification services are provided to children and families when children must be removed from their homes because of child safety concerns, as a result of serious parent-child conflict, or to treat serious physical or behavioral health conditions which cannot be addressed within the family. Children and their parents or other family members receive services designed to provide support and safety for the child and to address the problems that led to the placement. These services are intended to be temporary-the goal is to return children home as soon as possible or achieve permanency with another permanent family when this is not possible. The goal of reunification includes ongoing safety and stability in the family. Preventing the need for children to re-enter foster care is a key outcome.</p> <p>Services and supports provided to families whose children are in temporary care to address barriers to reunification or permanency, to maintain connections with family/community of origin to hasten reunification, and/or to improve post-reunification outcomes.</p>
<i>Tutoring/ Educational Supports & Services</i>	Instruction and/or supports provided to children, youth or adults, individuals or groups, designed to enhance skills, support and encourage individual goals and improve educational outcomes and/or improve employment. May include individual tutoring, group instruction, GED classes or support, SAT preparation, etc.

Helpful Resources

Child Welfare Information Gateway Resources for the full continuum of child welfare from prevention through adoption including information on evidence-based practices, promising practice models, identifying objectives/outcomes, developing logic models, assessment, home visiting, evaluation, etc. for child welfare services.

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/index.cfm>

Formerly the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information and the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse, Child Welfare Information Gateway provides access to information and resources to help protect children and strengthen families. A service of the [Children's Bureau](#), [Administration for Children and Families](#), [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#).

FRIENDS Planning resources for assessment, evaluation, child welfare outcomes and indicators, Healthy Marriage, home visiting, fatherhood, etc.

<http://www.friendsnrc.org/resources/print.htm#network>
