



OACCA

Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies, Inc.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. **Adoption Assistance:** the monthly payment to adoptive parents to help defray the costs of parenting special needs children.
2. **Case Manager:** the individual responsible for coordinating access to services and advocating for the child.
3. **Child Abuse:** an action against a child that is characterized as Physical Abuse - non-accidental physical injury of a child; Sexual Abuse – a sexual act upon or with a child; and/or Emotional Abuse – an act that interferes with the healthy psychological and/or social development of a child.
4. **Child Neglect:** the failure to act on behalf of a child. It is an act of omission and is characterized as:
 - Physical Neglect - failure to meet the basic requirements of a child's physical development such as supervision, housing, clothing, medical attention, nutrition and support.
 - Emotional Neglect - failure to provide the support and/or affection necessary to the child's healthy psychological and social development.
 - Medical Neglect - Withholding medical treatment from a child.
5. **Children's Residential Center (CRC):** a facility in which eleven or more children may reside for the purpose of receiving care and supervision twenty-four hours a day for two or more consecutive weeks in a highly structured environment.
6. **Community-based services:** services that are part of, and integrated with, the general community.
7. **Day Treatment:** intensive behavioral health care provided during the day—not overnight. [see Partial Hospitalization]
8. **Delinquent Child:** any child adjudicated for an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult or, a child who violates a court order.
9. **Dependent Child:** any child who, according to the Ohio Revised Code,
 - is homeless or destitute or without proper care or support through no fault of his parents, guardian, or custodian;
 - lacks proper care or support by reason of the mental or physical condition of parents, guardian, or custodian;
 - has a condition or environment such as to warrant the state, in the interest of the child, to assume his guardianship;To whom both of the following apply:

- i. S/He is residing in a household in which a parent, guardian, or custodian, or other member of the household has abused or neglected a sibling of the child;
 - ii. Because of circumstances surrounding the abuse or neglect of the sibling and the other conditions in the household of the child, the child is in danger of being abused or neglected by that parent, guardian, custodian, or member of the household.
10. **Developmental Disability:** a severe, chronic disability (mental or physical) that appears before age twenty-two and is likely to continue indefinitely. It results in developmental delays, and, in persons older than six years, a substantial limitation in at least three of the following areas, as appropriate for the person's age: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and, if the person is at least sixteen years of age, capacity for economic self-sufficiency. A person with a developmental disability needs special, interdisciplinary, or other type of care, treatment, or provision of services for an extended period of time that is planned, coordinated and individualized for the person.
11. **Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT):** a mandated part of every state's Medicaid program. It provides preventive health care to Medicaid-eligible children through the identification, diagnosis, and treatment of medical, behavioral health, dental and developmental conditions. In Ohio it is called HealthChek and does not include behavioral health.
12. **Emergency Shelter Care:** provided to children on short notice until their long term service needs are assessed and placements or services are arranged.
13. **Family and Children First:** an initiative begun by Governor Ted Celeste (the Cluster) and reconfigured by Governor George Voinovich to assure school readiness, health, and well-being for children through coordinated services and improved access to those services. It stresses intersystem solutions and county self-determination of service mix and spending.
14. **Family Foster Home:** a private residence in which five or fewer children are given nonsecure care and supervision twenty-four hours a day for hire, gain or reward by a person who is not the parent, guardian or legal custodian of such children.
15. **Family Preservation:** a program of intensive in-home services that allows children at risk of abuse and neglect to reside safely with their birth families as an alternative to foster care. Services provided to families include parenting and homemaker education, economic assistance, counseling and substance abuse treatment, skills training, job assistance and other services, as needed.
16. **Family Support Services:** services to enable families remain intact safely (see above definition).

17. **Family-Centered Services:** services focused on families as whole entities and systems, as compared to those that focus on the intensive needs of children.
18. **The Federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA):** federal law sponsored by former US Senator Mike DeWine, and became law in November 1997. It prioritizes "the best interest of the child" before the reunification of families. The intent of ASFA is to keep children from staying longer than necessary in foster care and to find them permanent homes quickly. Ohio's implementation of ASFA, HB 484, was passed in December, 1998. It is still part of the bedrock of child and family law.
19. **Group Home:** a public or private facility in which six to ten children are given nonsecure care twenty-four hours a day for two or more consecutive weeks for "hire, gain or reward".
20. **Individualized Education Plan (I.E.P.):** a plan that delineates the special education needs of children who have disabilities as determined by a Multi-Factored Evaluation or MFE.
21. **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):** the federal law that requires states to provide "free and appropriate education" to children between 3 and 21 years of age who have physical or behavioral health needs that require specialized services or support to enable them to learn. A child is eligible to receive services specified in his or her Individualized Education Plan or IEP.
22. **Independent Living Arrangement:** a living environment provided for a foster child who is at least 16 years old that helps the child transition from foster care to independent adulthood by providing services and education in life skills that may include how to read a lease, find health care, use public transportation, budget their money, interview for employment, etc.
23. **Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Standards:** standards of practice for agencies that provide treatment specifically for juveniles who have committed sexual offenses.
24. **Kinship Care:** care provided by relatives, friends or significant others of any child when parent(s) cannot. The care may or may not be reimbursed.
25. **Medicaid (Title XIX):** a Federal program that reimburses part of the cost of medical expenses for low-income persons who are 65 or older, blind or disabled; members of families with dependent children; or to qualified pregnant women or children. Most youngsters in out-of-home care become eligible for Medicaid assistance after 30 days in placement.
26. **Medically Fragile Child:** a child with severe medical problems that require intensive medical support and supervision.
27. **Mental Retardation:** a developmental disability that causes significant impairment of intellectual functioning that co-exists with deficiencies in adaptive behavior.
28. **MEPA (the Multi Ethnic Placement Act):** a federal law that prohibits the use of a child's or a prospective parent's race, color, or national origin to delay or deny the child's placement

and requires diligent efforts to expand the number of racially and ethnically diverse foster and adoptive parents.

29. **Out-of-home Care:** for children, is any place a child legally resides that is not the home of his/her parents. It includes: detention facilities, shelter facilities, foster homes, prospective adoptive homes, child care centers and providers, group homes, institutions, state institutions, residential facilities and camps, day camps, hospitals, and medical clinics that are responsible for the care, physical custody, or control of children.
30. **Partial Hospitalization:** mental health services to prevent hospitalization or re-hospitalization in a variety of settings that do not involve overnight care. (See Day Treatment)
31. **Permanency Plan:** a plan for a permanent living arrangement for a child after placement or treatment is concluded. Permanency plans may include adoption, reunification with family, independent living/emancipation and Planned Permanent Living Arrangements.
32. **Private Child Placing Agency (PCPA):** a privately-operated, licensed agency that receives or cares for children for two or more consecutive weeks. PCPAs are licensed to accept temporary, permanent, or legal custody of children and assist custodial agencies to place children in foster homes and/or provide adoption services.
33. **Private Noncustodial Agency (PNA):** a privately-operated, licensed agency that “receives or cares for children for two or more consecutive weeks.” PNAs are not licensed to accept temporary, permanent, or legal custody of children but may assist custodial agencies to place children in foster homes and/or provide adoption services.
34. **Public Children Services Agency (PCSA) aka County Children Services Agency** is a county children services board or department of job and family services that administers the state’s child welfare function on the local level.

Residential Center for Children: (see Children's Residential Center)

35. **Residential Parenting Facility:** a home for teenage mothers and their children. The mothers are taught parenting and life skills in order to help them keep their children with them safely.
36. **Respite:** temporary care of children, usually special needs children, to provide relief to regular, full-time caregivers. This service is critical for family preservation and retention of foster parents.
37. **Secure Care:** provided in a setting where there is no free access to the outside because of locks, fences or staff intervention.

38. **Sex Offender:** a youth who has been adjudicated by the courts (children are “adjudicated,” adults are “convicted”) as having committed a criminal act of a sexual nature.
39. **Special Needs:** age, race, physical or developmental handicap, mental or emotional condition, or other characteristics that compound the difficulty of serving a child.
40. **State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS):** the information system administered by ODJFS that connects private and public agencies that serve children in the Ohio child welfare system. It has been developed by ODJFS pursuant to SB 238 of the 126th Ohio General Assembly and the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1993.
41. **Supplemental Security Income or (SSI):** an income assistance program that provides monthly cash payments to needy aged, blind and/or disabled persons. Many special needs children receive SSI.
42. **Temporary Aid to Needy Families or (TANF):** replaced Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) - A federal and state financial cash assistance program administered by the states to meet the needs of children whose parents require cash assistance when their income and other resources are insufficient to meet the basic needs of their children.
43. **Title IV-A:** Part of the Social Security Act that defines eligibility for TANF.
44. **Title IV-B:** Part of the Social Security Act that sets policy for child welfare services and regulates foster care and adoption assistance payments.
45. **Title IV-E:** Part of the Social Security Act that sets policy for federal Foster Care Maintenance and Adoption Assistance Payments to the states. It is the main reimbursement source for foster care services.
46. **Treatment (Therapeutic, Specialized) Foster Home:** a foster home that includes special supervision, psychological services or medical treatment in the care provided for the specific, intensive needs of children placed there. The home receives and cares for children who are emotionally or behaviorally disturbed, medically fragile and/or require special medical treatment due to physical condition, or who have a developmental disability.
47. **Wrap Around:** the process of developing and providing flexible, nontraditional service packages for children and youth.