

**CHILD WELFARE
AND
JUVENILE JUSTICE**

GLOSSARY

Designed to support Protection and Safety & Juvenile Services Training



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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*).

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 the Department's Indian Child Welfare Program Specialist, Sherri Eveleth, at (402) 370-4216.

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 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. (390 1-007.02 and NRS 28-728 – 28-730) (See also **INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM** or **MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM**)²⁷

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)*.

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.⁵

ABANDONMENT A child is without an appropriate caregiver due to the intentional act and decision of the parent not to care for the child.⁵

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.

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.¹⁵

ABUSIVE HEAD TRAUMA (AHT) 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.

ACCOUNTABILITY Taking responsibility through internal behavior control in order to achieve long-term community safety.⁶ In the context of supervising juvenile offenders, it is the youth who is expected to learn how to take responsibility for his/her behaviors.

ACQUITTAL Judgment that a criminal defendant has not been proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.²

▣ **ACT, BY THE CHILD, THAT WOULD NOT BE A CRIME IF COMMITTED BY AN ADULT** An ICWA term that is a “status offense” such as truancy, run away, incorrigibility, etc.¹⁰

▣ **ACTIVE EFFORTS** 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.⁵

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. In addition to cultural considerations, some courts have stated that it is not enough to simply refer a parent of an Indian child to a service, that 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.¹⁰

ACUTE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALIZATION A treatment option for children experiencing acute mental health or substance abuse symptoms as identified by pre-treatment assessment. (*471 Nebraska Administrative Code [N.A.C.] 32-008*)

ADDICTION See Substance Dependence Disorder.

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.⁵

ADJUDICATION The process of rendering a judicial decision as to whether the facts alleged in a petition or other pleadings are true.⁵

An act in juvenile court that determines that a child fits one of the definitions in *N.R.S.43-247*. This determination is made in an order after a hearing. The adjudication order allows the court to intervene in the life of the family on a continuing basis with further orders aimed at rehabilitating the child or the family.

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 is a due process hearing held to appeal a decision made by a state agency.⁵

ADOPTEE An adopted person.¹¹

ADOPTION The social, emotional, and legal process through which children who will not be raised by their birth parents become full and permanent legal members of another family while maintaining genetic and psychological connections to their birth family.²⁰

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.⁵

When reunification efforts have been exhausted or when reunification is not appropriate, the permanency objective to be considered is adoption. Selected when a parent has relinquished parental rights or when the court has terminated a parent's rights, even if this decision is under appeal or action has not been taken on the other parent. (390 N.A.C. 6-001.01)

☐ 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.¹⁰

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.^{19,20}

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.¹

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 efforts¹⁰). 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.¹ (*Public Law [P.L.] 105-89*)

ADOPTION ASSISTANCE (ALSO KNOWN AS 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. (www.childwelfare.gov)

ADOPTION ASSISTANCE AND CHILD WELFARE ACT 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.¹ (*P.L. 96-272*)

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.²⁰

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".¹⁸

ADOPTION DISRUPTION An adoption that is terminated prior to finalization, often after the child is placed in the adoptive home, necessitating in a new placement plan for the child.²⁰

ADOPTION DISSOLUTION Describes an adoption in which the legal relationship between the adoptive parents and adoptive child is severed, either voluntarily or involuntarily, after the adoption is legally finalized. This results in the child's return to (or entry into) foster care or placement with new adoptive parents.²⁰

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.⁵

These are web-sites generally run by non-profit organizations that help locate and recruit prospective adoptive parents, generally for the adoption of children with special needs. Nebraska operates their own adoption exchange that maintains a photolisting of adoptable children waiting in their foster care system. Regional, national, and international exchanges facilitate adoption matches between children and families in more than one state. Nebraska uses the AdoptUSKids adoption exchange, www.adoptUSkids.org. The Eastern Service Area also contracts with the Nebraska Heart Gallery, www.nebraskaheartgallery.org.¹⁷

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.^{11, 17}

ADOPTION REGISTRY A central repository of profiles for all families approved for adoption or fos-adopt by the Department and available for such a placement.⁵

ADOPTION SUBSIDIES- SEE ADOPTION ASSISTANCE

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.²⁰

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."²⁰

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.¹⁸

ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT A type of placement that has not been finalized by a Decree of Adoption issued by a county or juvenile court.⁵

The point at which a child begins to live with prospective adoptive parents; the period before the adoption is finalized.¹¹ Effectively becomes an adoptive placement when the child is free for adoption, the adoptive family is approved as an adoptive placement and has a completed homestudy, and the Adoptive Placement Agreement is signed by the soon to be adoptive parents, the Children and Family Services Specialist, and the Children and Family Services Supervisor. The signing of this agreement gives the adoptive parents certain grievance rights if the child is moved without proper notice prior to the adoption being finalized. A child must live in the adoptive home a minimum of six months before the adoption can be finalized.^{11, 17}

ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT OF AN INDIAN CHILD See **CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING**.¹⁰

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."²⁰

ADOPTION WITH EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION 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 parent continues to provide information about or pictures of him/herself or both to the adoptive family after finalization. The Exchange-of-Information Contract is a two-year, renewable obligation voluntarily agreed to and signed by both the adoptive and biological parent(s) and the Department. The best interest of the child will determine whether information is exchanged. The contract should include but not be limited to the nature of information to be shared; the agreement of the biological parent(s) and adoptive parents to keep the Department informed of any changes of address or phone number; the provision for communication by the biological parent(s) indirectly through the Department or directly to the adoptive parent(s).¹³

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.¹⁷

ADULT An individual 19 years or older.⁵

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

AFFIDAVIT 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.⁵

A written statement of facts confirmed by the oath of the party making it, before a notary or officer having authority to administer oaths.²

AFFIRMED In the practice of the appellate courts, the decree or order is declared valid and will stand as rendered in the lower court.²

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.⁵

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.⁵

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. 28-713.⁵

AGENCY-SUPPORTED FOSTER CARE (ASFC) 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. (Service Provision Guidebook)

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.¹

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.⁵

A charge, statement, claim, or declaration (often of a child maltreatment occurrence).¹

ALLEGED FATHER The person named as the possible biological father of a child.⁵

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.¹⁰

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.¹⁸

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.²

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.¹

APNEA Temporary cessation of breathing.¹

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.²

APPELLATE About appeals; an appellate court has the power to review the judgment of another lower court or tribunal.²

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.⁵

ARBOR HEALTH PLAN The name of a managed care health plan provided by AmeriHealth, a health care company providing Medicaid managed care services for Medical and Surgical Services in 83 Nebraska counties, excluding 10 counties in southeast Nebraska.

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.

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.¹⁵

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.¹⁴  Attachment may be expressed differently from culture to culture.

ATTENDING A nondirective listening technique that refers primarily to eye contact and body language but also includes following a client verbally.¹ 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 HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD) A term in the DSM-IV 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.

ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER (ADD) An older term referring to individuals with the predominantly inattentive form of ADHD.

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.¹

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.²

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.¹

BEGINNING OF FOSTER CARE The 60 days after placement in out-of-home care.⁵

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).

BENCH TRIAL Trial without a jury in which a judge decides the facts.²

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.⁵

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).¹

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.

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.

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

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.

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.¹⁴

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.²

BURDEN OF PROOF The legal burden of producing evidence or persuading the fact finder within the legal system.¹

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.⁸

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.²³

C

CAPITAL OFFENSE A crime punishable by death.²

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.⁵

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.¹⁵

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 Decision and practice process associated with completing Children and Family services based on successful achievement of outcomes or changes within a family that eliminate the need for Children and Family services.

The initial assessment closes when: 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. If children are not safe, risk is high or very high or there is court intervention the case will be moved for ongoing case management.⁵

Ongoing case closure means the decision and process on the successful achievement of goals and outcomes of a child/family that eliminate the need for services and supervision. Other case closure reasons include youth reaching age of majority, death, marriage, or inability to locate child and family.⁵

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 LAW The law as laid down in cases that have been determined in the decisions of the courts.²

CASE MANAGEMENT A systematic approach to social work in which an emphasis is placed on systems in which a client must function to help facilitate client change. Case management involves coordination of the multiple services required by a client. The role of the case manager is to monitor services by making sure they are relevant to the client, delivered in a useful way, and appropriately used.¹

CASE PLAN A written agreement developed between the family, the CFS Specialist and other team members as appropriate. Case plans are developed for court and non-court involved cases using the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment as a foundation. In court involved cases, the court approves or modifies the case plan.⁵

Developed for DHHS – Division Of Children & Family Services by DHHS – HRD and UNL – CCFL

CASE PLANNING A process for the case manager and parent/caregivers to identify parent/caretaker needs that must be addressed to provide for child safety and reduce the risk of future maltreatment. For juvenile offenders it also includes identifying the risk/needs of the youth to reduce the risk of a youth from re-offending to ensure community safety. ⁵ For Indian children/youth, case planning includes contacting and involving the tribe at the earliest opportunity.

The collaborative process for developing a case plan. ¹⁰ For Indian children, tribes need to be consulted in the case planning process.

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. CCFL contracts with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to provide competency-based case management training to Protection and Safety & Juvenile Services staff.

CENTRAL REGISTER is a 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, Agency Substantiated or Court Pending.⁵

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.⁵

With respect to intervention by the Department, a child is a person from birth through 18 years of age. A person is no longer considered a child on his/her 19th birthday. (390 N.A.C. 1-001) (N.R.S. 43-245 [1])

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (CA/N) Abuse and neglect are types of child maltreatment. See the definition for **CHILD/YOUTH 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 AND FAMILY SERVICES (CFS) ADMINISTRATOR The designated job title for the person(s) in each Service Area with ultimate responsibility and authority for administering Child Welfare and Juvenile Services.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES (CFS) SPECIALIST The case manager, juvenile services officer, initial assessment or ongoing worker assigned to work with a child or their family who is employed by the Department of Health and Human Services.⁵

A CFS Specialist is the title of all Service Area staff in Child Welfare and Juvenile Services who work directly with children and families. CFS Specialists work with children and families of children who have issues of child abuse, neglect or dependency, delinquency, or status offending.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES (CFS) SPECIALIST SUPERVISOR The designated job title for the person who supervises Child and Family Services Specialists.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES (CFS) SPECIALIST TRAINEE A person in the pre-service phase of Child Welfare and Juvenile Services Training who is preparing to become a CFS Specialist.

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. Nebraska's first review occurred in 2002 and the second in 2008. The review process is ongoing.

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 buildings maintained by the organization for that purpose.⁵

CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING (ICWA SPECIFIC LANGUAGE) A term used within the Indian Child Welfare Acts to provide a definition of cases to which the Indian Child Welfare Acts apply and includes:

- foster care placement: any action removing an Indian child from a parent or Indian custodian for temporary 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;
- termination of parental rights: any action resulting in the termination of the parent-child relationship;
- pre-adoptive placement: 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;
- adoptive placement: the permanent placement of an Indian child for adoption, including any action resulting in a final decree of adoption.

The term "child custody proceeding" does not include a placement based upon an act which, if committed by an adult, would be deemed a crime. It also does not include an award, in a divorce proceeding, of custody to one of the parents.¹⁰

CHILD PLACING AGENCY An organization authorized by its articles of incorporation to place children in foster family or adoptive homes.⁵

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.⁵

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS) Specialized family-based services which employ a standardized professional process of intervention to identify and address risks and underlying needs associated with child maltreatment, risk of maltreatment, and threats to safety. In Nebraska, these services were referred to as the NDHHS Protection and Safety System, rather than Child Protective Services. In 2008, the NDHHS Protection and Safety System became Child Welfare and Juvenile Services.

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.¹⁵

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 / YOUTH MALTREATMENT See **MALTREATMENT**.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (CFS) Part of the computerized Child Welfare Information System (CWIS), CFS is the program into which families must be entered to be eligible to receive services from the NDHHS Child Welfare and Juvenile Services. It is also the name of an administrative division within the NDHHS.

CHILDREN / FAMILY SERVICE REVIEW OUTCOMES The outcomes identified by the federal government to address issues related to safety, permanency, and well-being.⁶

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.

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.¹

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.⁵

CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE is 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.⁵

Produces in the mind of the judge (or jury) a firm belief or conviction as to the truth of allegations.¹ This burden of proof is higher than the burden of preponderance of the evidence, but not as high as the burden of beyond a reasonable doubt.¹⁰  This burden of proof is necessary for most placement decisions involving children covered by the Indian Child Welfare Acts.²

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.²

CLOSED ADOPTION 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.⁵

Adoptive situation in which there is no contact or exchange of information between birth relatives and adoptive parents after an adoption is finalized. NFAPA Adoption Guide for Foster and Adoptive placements.
<http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/adoption/docs/AdpGuide.pdf>

CLOSED FRACTURE A fracture of the bone with no skin wound.¹

CLOSED QUESTION A question which prompts a person to give a one-word answer (e.g. yes or no). Restricts a person's response.¹

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.¹ 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) 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.¹

COMMITMENT An order by the court committing a child to the care and custody of the Department of Health and Human Services.⁵

COMMITMENT DATE A date that a child is made a Department ward via court order or voluntary relinquishment.⁵

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.²

COMMUNITY SAFETY is 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.⁵

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.⁵ Such juvenile offenders reside in the family home or in a community-based out-of-home setting.

COMMUNITY TREATMENT AIDES (CTA) Mental health or substance abuse paraprofessionals who provide active treatment in the home, school, and other locations by focusing on applying treatment interventions in normal settings. Issues must be identified by pre-treatment assessment. (*471 N.A.C. 32-002.10G*)

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.²³

COMPLAINT A written statement by a plaintiff stating the wrongs allegedly committed by the defendant.²

COMPOUND FRACTURE An open fracture; a fracture in which the bone is broken and protruding through the skin.¹ Compare to definition for **CLOSED FRACTURE**.

COMPREHENSIVE CHILD/ADOLESCENT ASSESSMENT (CCAA) An assessment of a juvenile offender conducted as part of the OJS evaluation; funded by the Division of Medicaid.⁶

COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY ASSESSMENT (CFA) An in-home assessment conducted on parents/caregivers in the family home to assess mental health/substance abuse issues of the adults; funded by the Division of Medicaid.⁶

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.⁵

The simultaneous preparation of plans to 1) assist the child's parents or caregivers in completing a treatment plan that, when developed and adopted by the court and completed by the parents or caregivers, will allow the child to return to the parents' home; and 2) place the child in a setting that will become the child's permanent home if the parents or caregivers are unable to complete their treatment plan successfully.¹

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.⁵

CONDITIONS OF LIBERTY AGREEMENT (COL) is 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.⁵

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.¹ Also refers to the legal right to confront adverse witnesses, as guaranteed by the 6th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.²

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.¹⁵

CONTINUANCE means 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.⁵

CONTRACT An agreement between two or more persons that creates an obligation to do or not to do a particular thing.²

CONVICTION The finding that an individual is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of committing a crime.⁵ A judgment of guilt against a criminal defendant.²

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.¹

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.²

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.²

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."²

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.⁵

Screened and trained community volunteers appointed by the court to speak up for the best interest of abused and neglected children. They review records, collect information from everyone involved in the child's case, and sometimes help monitor the progress of the child. Responsibilities also include making recommendations to the court as to what is best for the child and monitoring the case until it is resolved.¹ (*N.R.S. 43-3712*)

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.⁵ The court is not involved in all maltreatment cases; however, all status offense and juvenile offense cases are court involved.

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.⁵

COURT REPORT A written document that contains information about the child and the family and the progress towards achieving the goals in the case plan.⁵

The summary report provided to the court of the status of and the progress of the family and the child in relationship to the case plan during the previous reporting period; recommendations for the next reporting period for status offenders; and general case progress.

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.²

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.⁵

COURTESY ASSESSMENT An assessment completed at the request of another state jurisdiction without continuing involvement of DHHS.⁵

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.⁵

COVENTRY HEALTH CARE OF NEBRASKA A health care company providing managed care services for Nebraska Medicaid Medical and Surgical Services in all 93 Nebraska counties.

CREDIBILITY That quality in a witness that renders testimony worthy of belief; for example, credible evidence provided is worthy of belief.¹

CRIMINAL HISTORY A county, state, or federal criminal history of conviction or pending indictment of a misdemeanor or felony.⁵

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.¹

CROSS EXAMINATION Generally, an adversary's examination of a witness after the witness has been examined by direct examination.¹

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.⁵

CULTURAL PLAN For Indian children, this plan includes a Life Book to gather documents concerning the child's affiliations with tribes such as enrollment or registration cards, tribal identification cards, Certificates of Enrollment, Certificates of Degrees of Indian Blood, Indian Health Services card, or other documentation related to tribal affiliation, rights or responsibilities. The cultural plan must contain a plan to educate the child about his/her tribal history, a plan to keep the child safely in contact with extended family and other tribal members, expose the child to positive Native American role models, address 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.¹⁰

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.¹

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.¹ 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.⁵

D

DAMAGES Money paid by defendants to successful plaintiffs in civil cases to compensate the plaintiffs for their injuries.²

DEFAULT JUDGMENT A judgment rendered because of the defendant's failure to answer or appear.²

DEFENDANT In a civil suit, the person complained against; in a criminal case, the person accused of the crime.²

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 case or situation involving a dependent child in which no child maltreatment has been identified and the parent is or will be unable to care for the child through no fault of the parent due to: 1) incapacity or absence or 2) child has extraordinary mental health, emotional, or physical needs which the parent doesn't have the ability or capacity to meet. (390 N.A.C. 3-005.02) In Nebraska, the statutory reference is N.R.S. 43-247 (3a).

DEPENDENT CHILD/YOUTH 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.⁵

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.²

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.¹

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.³

DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDERS (DSM-IV-TR) A system of classifying mental disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association. The most recent revision is labeled TR for text revision. The DSM-V is due out in May of 2013. Nebraska Medicaid Managed Care requires a person to have a diagnosis listed in the DSM-IV-TR to qualify for Medicaid payment for mental health services.

DIRECT COMMITMENT A youth committed to the Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Juvenile Services for direct community supervision.⁵

DIRECT EVIDENCE This applies to a witness who testifies from his/her sensory perceptions regarding facts to be proven.²

DISCHARGE The termination of Department guardianship or custody of the child.⁵

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.²

DISCRETIONARY OVERRIDES The override applied by the CFSS worker to increase the risk level when the worker believes that the initial risk score was too low. These conditions that are affecting the likelihood of future maltreatment that are not captured within the terms of the initial risk level. The override can increase the risk score by one level only.¹⁵

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.¹²

DISPOSITION The court's determination of a case in which there is an issuance of a final order or opinion.⁵

An order of the juvenile court; it comes after a dispositional hearing that provides due process to all people who may potentially be directly affected. The dispositional order contains the orders for the parties that the court determines are necessary to rehabilitate either the child and/or the family of the child.

DISPOSITION HEARING Held after an adjudication order has been entered. The purpose is to provide parties with an opportunity to tell the court what the court should order each of the parties to do in order to rehabilitate the problems the court found to be wrong in the adjudication.

DISPOSITIONAL HEARING is a hearing for the purpose of determining what will be done 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.⁵

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 The term disruption is used to describe an adoption that ends before it is legally finalized, resulting in the child's legal custody reverting back to the agency or court that made the original placement and the child returning to foster care and/or to other adoptive parent(s).¹¹

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.¹

DISSOLUTION The term dissolution is used to describe an adoption that fails after finalization, resulting in the child's legal custody reverting back to the agency or court that made the original placement and the child returning to foster care and/or to other adoptive parent(s).¹¹

DOCKET A log containing brief entries of court proceedings.²

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.⁵

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.² 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.¹⁰ For ICWA, a domicile of an Indian child on or near the reservation requires that the tribal court assume responsibility for the child.²

DRUG SCREENING AND TESTING (DST) The term used in the Safety and In-Home Service contracts to refer to urinalysis procedures employed by the contractors. This service is available only for juvenile offenders committed to the Department. Urinalysis procedures are also carried out by the youths' assigned JSOs.

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.¹

E

EARLY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (EDN), THE 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.¹ 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.⁶

ECZEMA Allergic skin condition that causes reddened, dry areas on skin that may be mistaken for abuse.¹

EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHER (ETV) PROGRAM Program provides assistance with expenses related to post-secondary education for current and former foster youth 17-23.²²

EFFECTIVE SERVICES Services that have the power to produce the desired results.⁶

EFFICIENT SERVICES Services that produce results without waste.⁶

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 Department 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.⁷

■ **EMERGENCY (ICWA SPECIFIC LANGUAGE)** Imminent physical damage or harm to an Indian child (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.¹⁰

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 CENTER OR HOME (ESC or ESH) 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. This may occur in a foster family or shelter center setting. (Service Provision Guidebook)

EMOTIONAL ABUSE The parent/caregiver demonstrates a pattern of criticizing, rejecting, insulting, isolating, terrorizing, or humiliating the child, resulting in serious emotional or behavioral issues.⁵

Psychopathological or disturbed behavior in a child/youth which is documented in writing by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or licensed mental health practitioner to be the result of continual scapegoating, rejection, or exposure to violence by the child/youth's parent or caretaker (NAC 390 3-005.01).

EMOTIONAL 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.⁵

The child/youth is suffering or has suffered severe negative emotional effects due to a parent's failure to provide opportunities for normal experiences that produce feelings of being loved, wanted, secure, and worthy, as documented in writing by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or licensed mental health practitioner (NAC 390 3-005.01).

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.¹

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.²

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

ENHANCED TREATMENT GROUP HOME (ETGH) This service has been replaced by Therapeutic Group Home (ThGH). As of July 1, 2011, this service is no longer available from Medicaid.

ENROLLMENT (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.¹⁰

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.⁵

EVIDENCE Any sort of proof submitted to the court for the purpose of influencing the court's decision on a case.⁵

Information presented in testimony or in documents that is used to persuade the fact finder (judge or jury) to decide the case for one side or the other.²

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.⁶

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 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.¹ See also **QUALIFIED EXPERT WITNESS**.¹⁰

EXPUNGEMENT REVIEW The process for an individual, whose name has been entered on the Child and/or Adult Abuse Central Register/ry, to request that their name be removed.⁵

EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER 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.² ☐ For Indian children, this term is defined by the law or custom of the child's tribe or, in the absence of such law or custom, is a person who has reached the age of 18 and who is the Indian child's grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sister, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, niece or nephew, first or second cousin, or step-parent. For some tribes, extended family members may or may not be related by blood, such as clan or band members.¹⁰

F

FACILITY Something that is built, installed, or established to serve a particular purpose.⁶

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.⁵

A nonspecific term applied to infants and young children who are failing to grow according to commonly described normal parameters. May be organic – caused by an underlying disease, or nonorganic – caused by psychological or environmental factors.¹

FAMILY 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.⁵

☐ For Indian children, see also **EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER**.¹⁰

FAMILY CENTERED The provision of services based on the values, beliefs, and principals of Family Centered Practice.⁶

FAMILY CENTERED PRACTICE (FCP) See **FAMILY/PERSON CENTERED PRACTICE (F/PCP)**

Developed for DHHS – Division Of Children & Family Services by DHHS – HRD and UNL – CCFL

FAMILY DYNAMICS Interrelationships between and among individual family members.¹

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.⁷

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.¹

FAMILY/PERSON CENTERED PRACTICE (F/PCP) A process that is based on a core set of values, beliefs, and principles that recognize that families can and should contribute to all aspects of services through their active participation.⁵

Family/Person Centered Practice represents a way of working with people that values individuals and families. The Department is committed to providing services that are built on this foundation. F/PCP is based on a core set of values, beliefs, and principles that recognize that families can and should contribute to all aspects of services through their active participation. Sometimes referred to more simply as Family Centered Practice (FCP).

FAMILY PRESERVATION Family Preservation means that all efforts are 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.⁵

The first consideration for a permanency objective whenever the worker assessment indicates the child can be safely maintained in the home. The Department will then focus on returning legal custody to the parent(s). (390 N.A.C. 6-001.01)

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.⁵

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.¹⁵

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.⁷

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.⁵

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).⁵ ☐ For Indian children, tribal ICWA Specialists from the child's tribe(s) are invited to attend family team meetings.¹⁰

FEDERAL QUESTION Jurisdiction given to federal courts in cases involving the interpretation and application of the U.S. Constitution, acts of Congress, and treaties.²

FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED 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.¹⁰

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.

FELONY A crime carrying a penalty of more than a year in prison.²

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).¹ This term has been replaced in most usage by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS (FASD) 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) 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.¹ 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.¹¹

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.²

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.²⁰

FINALIZATION OF ADOPTION Issuance of a decree of adoption by the court in which the adoption petition was filed.¹³ Nebraska statute states a child must reside with a family at least six continuous months before finalization. The prospective adoptive parents will retain an attorney to finalize the adoption. After finalization, adoptive parents have full rights and responsibilities for their child. (390 NAC 6-002.13)

FINAL RISK LEVEL The final risk level after overrides which may be low, moderate, high, or very high.¹⁵

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).

FORENSIC INTERVIEW An interview conducted for the purpose of collecting information on possible child abuse and neglect for use in legal proceedings.¹

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.⁵

FORMER WARD An individual age 18 through 20 who has been discharged as a ward by NDHHS or NDHHS-OJS and who is in a continuing educational program. (479 N.A.C. 1-004)

FORMER WARD PROGRAM A program that offers extended assistance to assist eligible youth after their discharge from the Department to continue their education in preparing for gainful employment.²²

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.⁵

FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT When a child is placed with a government agency by a court or by voluntary agreement because the parent or guardian of the child is unable, or unwilling to care for the child.² ☐ For Indian children, see **CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING**.¹⁰

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 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.⁵

FOSTER HOME (FH) A private single-family living unit, under one roof, housing no more than nine children/youth under the age of 19 including foster children and children of the provider, that provides 24-hour parenting to all of the children. No more than six children can be under the age of 12.⁵

A private home, including relative's home, which has been licensed or approved and evaluated by means of a home study for the 24-hour-a-day care of foster children. (479 N.A.C. 1-004)

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.^{2,10}

FUNNELING A line of questioning where the interviewer starts with broader, open-ended, questions and moves to focused questions.^{1,2}

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.¹⁰

GEOMAPPING The process of identifying the presence of the targeted resources/services available to people in a geographical area.⁶

GOALS See **OUTCOMES**.

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.²

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.¹

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.⁵

Out-of-home placement provided in a group home setting that is designed to provide care for children or youth while they are unable to live with their respective families.

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.⁵

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.⁵

An attorney appointed by a court to protect the best interests of a minor child in a specific legal action. (479 N.A.C. 1-004) Note that the plural form is Guardians Ad Litem.

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.⁵

The transfer of parental responsibility and legal authority for a minor child to an adult caregiver who intends to provide permanent care for the child. This can be done without terminating the parental rights of the child's parents. Transferring legal responsibility removes the child from the child welfare system, allows the caregiver to make important decisions on the child's behalf, and establishes a long-term caregiver for the child. In subsidized guardianship, the guardian is provided with a monthly subsidy for the care and support of the child.²⁰

H

GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE (ALSO KNOWN AS SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP) 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 (see Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program) or can be state funded. (Legal Guardianship Guidebook)

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.²

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

HEARING Generally, a judicial examination of the issues of law and fact between parties.¹

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.²

HEMATOMA Accumulation of blood in an organ or tissue due to a break in a wall of a blood vessel.¹

HEMOPHILIA A hereditary disorder in which blood fails to clot adequately and abnormal bleeding can occur.¹

HERNIATION Abnormal protrusion of an organ or other body structure through a defect or natural opening in a covering, membrane, muscle, or bone.¹ 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.

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. (Service Provision Guidebook)

HOMESTUDY A process through which prospective foster and adoptive parents are educated about adoption and evaluated to determine their suitability to adopt.¹¹

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.⁷

HOUSEHOLDS Consist of 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).⁵

HOUSEHOLD VIOLENCE Violence within the household which can include child to child; child and parent; parents to parent or other caretakers or relatives in the home.⁵

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.¹ This is usually treated by a shunt which drains the fluid into the abdomen.

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.¹

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.¹

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION Information on birthparents which discloses their identities.¹¹

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.²

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.¹

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.

INDEPENDENT LIVING (IL) Specific sub-definitions for Independent Living are:

INDEPENDENT LIVING AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESIDENCE Independent living is the establishment of a residence for a foster youth to reside outside of a foster placement or his/her family. Youth reside in an apartment, house, dorm or other type of living arrangement and are responsible for taking care of their needs (i.e., paying rent, buying and preparing food, managing a budget).⁵

INDEPENDENT LIVING AS A PERMANENCY OBJECTIVE OR CONCURRENT PLAN Independent Living 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.⁵

SELF-SUFFICIENCY AS A PERMANENCY OBJECTIVE Policy states that self-sufficiency with supports is an appropriate permanency objective for a youth who experiences disabilities who currently is receiving and will continue to need a living situation with supports as an adult. Ward's may require continuing involvement with the Department or another service agency or both after discharge from the state ward system.⁵

TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROPOSAL/INDEPENDENT LIVING PLAN The Transitional Living Proposal, also referred to as an Independent Living Plan, is a plan developed by identifying knowledge and skills of youth related to their ability to live on their own with limited supports and providing them with education, support and training to develop and improve those skills and knowledge.⁵

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.¹⁰

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. This is a political, not racial, status. Indian children may have blond hair and blue eyes, appear African American or have Hispanic surnames.¹⁰

INDIAN CHILD'S 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.¹⁰

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACTS (ICWA) A federal law passed in 1978 that protects the relationship of Indian children with their tribes and the role of Indian tribes in the decision-making around the protective needs and placement of American Indian children from those tribes. Includes mandates for state courts and procedural safeguards, such as tribal notification and active efforts to preserve the unity of families and the integrity of children's tribal and cultural affiliation.¹ (*P.L. 95-608, 25 U.S.C. 1901, et seq.*) 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.*¹⁰

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.¹⁰

INDIAN TRIBE See **FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBE**.¹⁰

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.²

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) A written plan for the provision of Special Education services to children between birth and three years of age (see Early Development Network). 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.

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.⁵

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.²

INFORMATION A formal accusation by a government attorney that the defendant committed a misdemeanor.²

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.⁷

INITIAL ASSESSMENT The process the Department utilizes to assess for child safety, risk and to determine if maltreatment occurred.⁵

INITIAL CLASSIFICATION A process of evaluating and categorizing the risks and needs presented by each juvenile offender, so that appropriate recommendations can be made regarding the youth's initial placement, supervision level, and services. Initial classification occurs after adjudication but before disposition.

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.¹⁵

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.¹⁵

INJURY Tissue damage such as welts, bruises, or lacerations that last more than 24 hours, resulting from trauma.⁵

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 Juvenile Services Officer to any of the YRTC 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.⁵

An interview and process by which the community makes known its concerns to Children and Family Services staff regarding suspected child maltreatment or risk of child maltreatment. The mechanism for receiving and reviewing referrals from the community.

INTERDISCIPLINARY 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. (See additional information at **MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM** and **1184 TEAM**) (390 1-007.02 and NRS 28-728 – 28-730)

INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION (IFP) A short-term, intensive, family focused intervention that includes services accessible on a 24-hour basis designed to help maintain a child/youth in his/her home (or sometimes a foster home).

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.⁷

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.²

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.⁵

INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN (ICPC) is 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. Interstate Compact on ICPC and ICPC Administrator designee definitions are out of alphabetical order and should be moved to where Interstate Compact on Juveniles definition is located.⁵

The law which helps ensure uniform services to children placed across state lines. ☐ The tribes are not signatories to these agreements. (390 N.A.C. 9-001) (N.R.S. 43-1101 et seq.)

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

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.²

JUDGMENT The official decision of a court finally determining the respective rights and claims of the parties to a suit.²

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.²

JURISPRUDENCE The study of law and the structure of the legal system.²

JURY Persons selected according to law and sworn to inquire into and declare a just verdict on matters of fact.²

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 43-245.⁵

A youth who has: a) committed an act which would constitute a misdemeanor, infraction, felony, or traffic offense under the laws of the state or other jurisdictional authority, and b) been adjudicated as a law violator by the appropriate court. (*N.R.S. 43-247 [1, 2, or 4]*) (*390 N.A.C. 3-005.04*).

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*)

JUVENILE SERVICES OFFICER (JSO) The working title of the CFS Specialist who works with youths (and families of youths) who have been adjudicated and committed to the Department for law violations or status offenses.

K

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 Adoption of a child by someone related by family ties or a prior relationship.²⁰ (**also known as RELATIVE ADOPTION**)

KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 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. (Admin Memo #15- 2010)

L

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.⁵

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.⁵

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.²

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.¹

LEAST RESTRICTIVE A term that refers to placement of a child in a setting that is most comparable to his/her home.⁵

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.⁵

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.²⁰

LEGAL 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.¹⁰ See also **GUARDIANSHIP**.

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.¹¹

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.²

LEGALLY FREE A child whose birth parents' rights have been legally terminated so that the child is "free" to be adopted by another family.¹¹

LIABILITY The condition of being legally obliged and responsible.

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.¹¹

LITIGATION A case, controversy, or lawsuit. Participants (plaintiffs and defendants) in lawsuits are called litigants.²

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 Care, 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.

MALTREATMENT Parenting behavior that is harmful or destructive to a child's (age birth through age 17) cognitive, social, emotional, and/ or physical development.⁵

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.¹ 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.²⁰

MEDIATION An intervention technique used in disputes between parties to help them reconcile differences, find compromises, or reach mutually satisfactory agreements.¹ 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) The Medicaid program for mental health and substance abuse (MHSA) services for all children and youth in the state under age 20, and for medical and surgical services in only Douglas, Sarpy, and Lancaster counties. Children and youth must be enrolled in the program and must use providers who are also enrolled in the program.

MEDICAL 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.⁵

MEDICAL NEGLECT OF HANDICAPPED INFANT 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 provision of the treatment and the treatment itself under these conditions would be inhumane.⁵

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.³

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.¹⁰

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.¹

MISDEMEANOR Usually a petty offense, a less serious crime than a felony, punishable by less than a year of confinement.²

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.⁵

MISTRIAL An invalid trial, caused by fundamental error. When a mistrial is declared, the trial must start again from the selection of the jury.²

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.¹ (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.¹

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM (MDT) 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. (See also **INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM** or **1184 TEAM**)

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.^{1,10} (P.L. 103-82)

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.¹

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.

Developed for DHHS – Division Of Children & Family Services by DHHS – HRD and UNL – CCFL

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.⁵

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 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.⁹

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (NDHHS or more simply DHHS) The full formal title of the state governmental department that administers the Protection and Safety & Juvenile Services as well as a myriad of other social services and health-related programs. There are six Divisions within the Department: Behavioral Health; Developmental Disabilities; Medicaid and Long-Term Care; Public Health; Veterans’ Homes; and Children and Family Services (the division that includes the Child Welfare Unit and the Office of Juvenile Services as well as the Economic Assistance/Child Support Enforcement Unit).

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 AND HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM (NHSS or HHSS) In Nebraska, the former title (from 1997 through 2006) for what is now the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS). A “system” rather than an agency, NHSS included three separate departments entitled Health and Human Services, Finance and Support, and Regulation and Licensure.

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.

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.⁴

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.²

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.⁵

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-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.⁵

NON-IDENTIFYING INFORMATION Facts about the birth parents or adoptive parents that would not lead to their discovery by another person.¹¹

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.²⁰

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.² ☐ 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.¹⁰

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*)²

O

OFFICE OF JUVENILE SERVICES (OJS) An office within NDHHS, Division of Children and Family Services, that administers programs and services for juvenile offenders committed to the Department.

☐ For Indian children, OJS cases may or may not be ICWA cases, depending upon the basis for the placement.¹⁰

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).¹⁵

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.¹

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.²

ORAL ARGUMENT An opportunity for lawyers to summarize their position before the court and also to answer the judge's questions.²

ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE The birth certificate issued at the birth of a child.¹⁸

OUTCOMES Statements that identify specifically what is to be produced by each Family/Person Centered Plan.⁴ 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.²

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 One or both parents or a stepparent when such stepparent is married to the custodial parent as of the filing of the petition (*NRS 43-245 (11)*).  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.¹⁰ 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.^{3, 24}

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. (Service Provision Guidebook)

PARENTAL RIGHTS The legal rights and corresponding legal obligations that go along with being the parent of a child.²⁰

PARENTING TIME The quality and quantity of time a parent spends with their child who is in out of home care.⁵

A currently used term for visitation. Administrative Memo 7-11 outlines guidelines for parenting time for children of various ages. These guidelines have been approved by the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission to provide guidance to judges.

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.

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.²⁰

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.²⁰

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.⁵

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.⁵

The intended type of placement that will best fulfill a child's safety, well-being, and permanency needs. For each child there must be a selected permanency objective that addresses the child's best interests. The permanency objectives for Department wards, in preferred order of selection, are: family preservation, reunification, adoption, legal guardianship, long-term foster care, independent living, and self-sufficiency with supports. ☐ For Indian children, permanency objectives may be modified to take into account tribal culture.¹⁰

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.⁵

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.

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.⁵

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.¹

PETITIONER Practically synonymous with plaintiff in legal nomenclature and refers to the party bringing the case to court for a decision.¹

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.²

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.²⁰

PHYSICAL ABUSE The non-accidental infliction of injury or an act that poses a substantial likelihood of bodily injury.⁵

When "information indicates the existence of an injury that is unexplained; not consistent with the explanation given or is non-accidental. The information may also only indicate a substantial risk of bodily injury." (NAC 390 3-005.01)

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.⁵

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.¹

PHYSICAL 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.⁵

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

PLAINTIFF The person who files the complaint in a civil lawsuit.²

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.²

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 educational 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.⁵

▣ PLACEMENT PREFERENCES (ICWA SPECIFIC LANGUAGE) For Indian children, the Indian Child Welfare Acts provide placement preferences for Foster Care and Pre-adoptive Placements and for Adoptive Placements in the absence of placement preferences specified by a tribe.¹⁰

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.²

POLICY OVERRIDES These overrides refer to the incidents or conditions that occurred during the current review period that drive the risk level up to Very High risk level. There are four mandatory policy overrides that exist: Sexual abuse and the perpetrator is likely to have access to the child, non-accidental injury to a child under 2 years, severe non accidental injury, and/or caregiver's actions or inactions resulted in the death of a child due to abuse or neglect.¹⁵

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.⁶

POSTADOPTION SERVICES Services provided after an adoptive placement to the adopted person, the adoptive family, and/or the birth parents.²⁰

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.²⁶

POSTGUARDAINSHIP SERVICES (see POSTADOPTION SERVICES)

POSTNATAL Occurring after birth, with reference to a newborn child.¹

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.²⁰

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.²⁰

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.¹

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.²

PRE-ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT CUSTODY PROCEEDING.¹⁰ See **ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT.**  For Indian children, see **CHILD**

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.

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.

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.²⁵

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.⁵

The level (or burden) of proof required to prevail in most child maltreatment cases that do not involve Native American children. The judge or jury must be persuaded that the facts are more probably one way (the plaintiff's way) than another (the defendant's). Evidence that on the whole shows that the fact sought to be proved is more probable than not.

PRE-TREATMENT ASSESSMENT (PTA) Comprehensive assessment by licensed mental health or medical practitioner or licensed alcohol and drug counselor to review the child's or youth's history and factors impacting treatment and to develop recommendations. Includes initial psychiatric diagnostic interview, psychological testing, addendum to previous PTA and family assessment. (471 N.A.C. 32-001.01)

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.²

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.⁵

The assessment used on 3b and dependency cases to determine future maltreatment. It is completed at the end of the Initial Assessment phase.¹⁵

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.⁵

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.¹²

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.²

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE FAMILY CARE (PRFC) This is a Medicaid residential service for children with a mental health or substance abuse diagnosis (DSM-IV-TR). 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.²⁸

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PIP) Plan prepared by the Protection and Safety system to meet the deficiencies identified by the Child and Family Services Review in 2002 and 2008.

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

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.²

PROTECTION AND SAFETY & JUVENILE SERVICES Previously known as the Child Welfare and Juvenile 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; are no longer threats to their community; and that communities are safe from harm by these children or youth.⁹

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 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) Parents signing a Voluntary Placement Agreement giving specific rights of the child to the Department or 3) the Department initiating court action.⁵

PROTECTIVE SERVICE WORKER (PSW) This earlier used job title changed to Child and Family Services (CFS) Specialist in 2008.

PROTOCOL The methods and standards established by local law enforcement and DHHS of handling investigations of child maltreatment allegations.²

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.²⁸

PSYCHOSOMATIC SYMPTOMS Physical symptoms that have psychological causes.¹

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.¹²

PUTATIVE FATHER Legal term for the alleged or supposed father of a child.¹¹

PUTATIVE FATHER REGISTRIES 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.¹¹ See **NEBRASKA BIOLOGICAL FATHER REGISTRY**.

Q

QUALIFIED EXPERT WITNESS Also see **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. 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."^{2, 10}

R

RATIONALIZATION A psychological mechanism in which one justifies his/her own behavior to get him/herself socially or psychologically "off the hook." Exemplified in the statement: "My son's behavior warranted the beating".

REAL EVIDENCE Evidence that is addressed directly to the senses without intervention of testimony.¹ This refers to tangible items.²

REASONABLE EFFORTS Supports and services both informal and formal that may allow the child to remain in his/her home safely.⁵

The measures which the Department and the family take to prevent the removal of the child from the home or to reunify the child with the family.  For Indian children, the standard is active efforts.¹⁰

RECAPITULATION The process of reviewing and summarizing discussed topics.¹

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.

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.¹ 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.⁶

RECORD A written account of all the acts and proceedings in a lawsuit.²

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.¹

REFERRAL In Child Welfare work, often the same thing as a report. See **REPORT**.

REFLECTION Paraphrasing what a person has said (i.e., the content) or identifying and verbalizing a person's feelings.¹

 **REGISTRATION (ICWA SPECIFIC LANGUAGE)** See **ENROLLMENT** for meaning of registration in a tribe.¹⁰

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.⁵

RELATIVE ADOPTION (see KINSHIP ADOPTION)

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 adoption¹⁰).

REMAND An appellate court sending a case back to a lower court for further proceedings.²

REPORT 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. (Service Provision Guidebook)

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.¹

☐ **RESERVATION** Indian country as defined by federal law and any lands held in trust by the federal government for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual subject to a restriction by the United States against alienation.¹⁰

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES An identified Safety Service where children will receive supervision in a facility for a period of more than twenty-four (24) hours.⁷

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER (RTC) This service has been replaced by Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF). As of July 1, 2011, this service is no longer available from Medicaid.

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. (Service Provision Guidebook)

RESPITE SERVICES An identified Safety and In-Home Service where (definition?) 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.⁷

RESPONDENT Anyone who answers or responds. Is often used to mean the defendant in a lawsuit.¹

RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY A disciplined way of thinking and taking action that communities can use to improve the lives of children, youth, families, and the community as a whole. It can also be used to improve the performance of programs, agencies, and service systems. This approach is based upon three terms:²¹

RESULTS A condition of well-being for children, adults, families or communities²¹

INDICATOR A measure which helps quantify the achievement of a result²¹

PERFORMANCE MEASURE A measure of how well a program, agency or service system is working²¹

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.⁵

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.⁵

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.¹⁵

REUNION A meeting between birth relatives and an adopted person.²⁰

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.²

REVOCAATION 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.

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.²⁰

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.¹

RISK means the probability (likelihood, chance, potential, prospect) that any harm will occur in the next year to two years.⁵

RISK ASSESSMENT An objective appraisal of the likelihood that children in a household will experience abuse or neglect in the future.⁵

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.¹⁵

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.¹⁵

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.⁵

An SDM tool used to reassess risk for a family, as well as, evaluate the family's progress toward case plan goals.¹⁵

RISK OF RE-OFFENDING In the Office of Juvenile Services, the likelihood that a juvenile offender will commit new law violations. Reduction in the risk of re-offending is a key outcome for all juvenile offenders and their families.

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

RUNAWAY There is reasonable evidence to suggest that the child has runaway or has been absent from home for at least 12-14 hours without parent/caregiver consent, and the parent/caregiver does not know where the child is.⁵

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.¹⁵

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.⁵

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.¹⁵

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.¹⁵

SAFETY INTERVENTIONS If there are threats, then the worker and family must consider interventions. If they can write a safety plan that will keep the child safe from the identified threats, the child is conditionally safe and may remain in the home. The worker must follow up and monitor this family to make sure that the safety plan is followed. The same applies to placements. If the concerns can be addressed with a safety plan, then the child can remain in the placement as long as the plan is in place.¹⁵

SAFETY ASSESSMENT An immediate (here and now) observation and investigation of whether there are serious and imminent threats to a child. Safety is about the short term.⁵

The first decision made, at the first contact with the family, is to allow the child to remain in the home, with or without a safety plan, or to take the child into protective custody. The safety assessment helps workers do this consistently. The safety assessment is completed at the first face-to-face contact, but it may be repeated at any point in an investigation or case whenever conditions change.¹⁵

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, a Voluntary Placement Agreement or the family and DHHS agreement to an informal out-of-home placement with relatives.⁵

SAFETY NET Arrangements and connections within the family network or community that can be created, facilitated, and reinforced that support the caregiver and provide resources and assistance when the Department is no longer involved with the family.⁶

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.⁵

A written document written by the case manager with the family that identifies safety interventions to adequately and effectively mitigate all identified safety threats. These are required whenever a safety threat is identified.¹⁵

SAFETY SERVICES Services that are provided to address the safety threat identified in the family.⁶ Safety services may be in-home, out-of-home, or a combination of both.

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.⁵

Behaviors and/or conditions present within a household which present imminent danger of serious harm to any child/children.¹⁵

SCAPEGOAT A person bearing the blame for others and /or receiving the brunt of punishment.¹

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.¹

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.¹

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.¹⁸

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.²⁰

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.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.¹²

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.

 **SECRETARY (ICWA SPECIFIC LANGUAGE)** For purposes of the Indian Child Welfare Acts, the Secretary of the Interior.¹⁰

SENTENCE The punishment ordered by a court for a defendant convicted of a crime.²

SEQUESTER To separate. Sometimes juries are sequestered from outside influences during their deliberations.² 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.

SERVICE AREA Geographical boundaries established to organize and manage the work of DHHS employees. As of 2007, 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 such as the two Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Centers, the three Regional Centers, the four Veteran's Homes, and the Beatrice State Developmental Center.

SERVICE OF PROCESS The delivery of writs, petitions, or summonses to the appropriate party.²

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.²

SEXUAL 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.⁵

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.⁵

SHARE ADVANTAGE The former name for the managed health care plan (now known as United Health Care Community Plan) provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) and providing managed care services for Nebraska Medicaid Medical and Surgical Services in a 10 county area of southeast Nebraska.

SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME 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.¹ 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.

SIDEBAR A conference between the judge and lawyers held out of earshot of the jury and spectators.²

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.

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.¹

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.¹⁰

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.³

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."²⁰

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.¹⁰

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.¹

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.¹

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.¹⁰

STATE WARD Any child or youth whose legal custody by judicial determination has been retained by the court or assigned to the Department.

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.⁵ To be a status offender a child must be adjudicated as within the meaning of *N.R.S 43-247 (3b)*.²

STATUS OFFENSE Term which describes violations of laws that pertain only to juveniles, such as truancy or running away. Status offender behaviors are those behaviors which are problematic for the youth and their families, but which if engaged in by someone over the age of 18 years would not violate the law. Also referred to as a "3b" in Nebraska's juvenile courts. (*390 N.A.C. 1-006.05*)

STATUTE A law passed by a legislature.² Also sometimes labeled as statutory law, in contrast to case law.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS A law that sets the time frame within which parties must take action to enforce their rights.²

STRENGTHS 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.⁴ 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.¹⁶

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.¹

SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM A judicial order to a witness to produce documents.²

SUBSIDIZED ADOPTION (see **ADOPTION ASSISTANCE**)

SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP (see **GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE**)

SUBSTANCE ABUSE A set of mental health disorders defined in the DSM-IV to describe individuals with a maladaptive pattern of substance use (alcohol and/or other drugs) manifested by recurrent and significant adverse consequences related to the repeated use of substances. Substance abuse differs from substance dependence because it does not include tolerance, withdrawal, or a pattern of compulsive use.

SUBSTANCE DEPENDENCE A set of mental health disorders defined in the DSM-IV to describe individuals with a cluster of cognitive, behavioral, and physiological symptoms indicating that the individual continues use of the substance despite significant substance-related problems. There is a pattern of repeated self-administration that can result in tolerance, withdrawal, and compulsive drug taking behavior.

SUMMARIZING An interview technique used to pull together thoughts, feelings, and plans expressed and developed during the interview.¹

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.²

SUPERVISED VISITATION This is an identified Safety and In-Home 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.⁷

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.¹¹

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.²²

SUPPRESSION A psychological defense mechanism in which a person intentionally avoids thinking about disturbing problems, desires, feelings, or experiences.¹

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.¹

TEMPORARY CUSTODY HEARING Occurs within 48 hours 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 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.²

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS (TPR) A legal determination that ends the legal parent-child relationship. Both the rights and responsibilities of the parent are terminated. Once the relationship has been legally terminated, the child is free to be placed for adoption. ■ For Indian children, see **CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING**.¹⁰

TESTIMONY Evidence presented orally by witnesses during trials or before grand juries.²

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.²⁸

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.¹²

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.

Developed for DHHS – Division Of Children & Family Services by DHHS – HRD and UNL – CCFL

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.²

TORTURE The infliction of intense pain to punish, coerce, or afford sadistic pleasure.⁵

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.⁷

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.²

TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM (TLP) Contracted program that provides direct services for eligible youth who are transiting to independent living.²²

TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROPOSAL This term has also been referred to as an Independent Living Plan. The Transitional Living Proposal is a plan developed by identifying knowledge and skills of a youth related to their ability to live on their own with limited supports and providing them with education, support and training to develop and improve those skills and knowledge.⁵

TRAUMA Specific sub-definitions for trauma are:

PRIMARY TRAUMA Primary Trauma is caused by a traumatic event that happens to you—you are directly exposed to the trauma.²³

SECONDARY 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.²³

VICARIOUS TRAUMA 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.²³

SECONDARY TRAUMATIC STRESS 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.)²³

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.

▣ **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.¹⁰

▣ **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.¹⁰

▣ **TRIBAL COURT** A court that 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.¹⁰

▣ **TRIBAL ICWA SPECIALIST** A person employed by a tribe for the management of Indian Child Welfare Act cases. This person may also be responsible to represent the tribe's legal interests in ICWA cases.¹⁰

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.¹⁰

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.¹⁰

TRIBAL SERVICE AREA A geographic area in which tribal services and programs are provided to Native American people. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska (Northern Ponca) has 15 counties that are service areas: Boyd, Burt, Douglas, Hall, Holt, Knox, Lancaster, Madison, Platte, Sarpy, Stanton and Wayne Counties of Nebraska, Woodbury and Pottawattomie Counties of Iowa, and Charles Mix County of South Dakota.¹⁰

TRIBAL WARD A child who meets the definition of a ward of the tribe under the tribal code. For purposes of placement at the YRTCs 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 an 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.¹⁰

TREATMENT GROUP HOME (TGH) This service has been replaced by Therapeutic Group Home (ThGH). As of July 1, 2011, this service is no longer available from Medicaid.

U

UNABLE TO LOCATE The subjects of the maltreatment report have not been located after a good faith effort on the part of the Department.⁵

UNFOUNDED All reports not classified as court substantiated, court pending, agency substantiated, or unable to locate.⁵

UNITED HEALTHCARE COMMUNITY PLAN The current name of the managed care plan, provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS), which provides managed care services for Nebraska Medicaid Medical and Surgical Services in a 10 county area of southeast Nebraska. (Formerly known as Share Advantage)

UNREASONABLE USE OF CONFINEMENT/RESTRAINTS Physical abuse will also include 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.⁵

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.¹⁵

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.⁵

UPHOLD The decision of an appellate court not to reverse a lower court decision.²

URGENT CRISIS RESPONSE The response time of a safety service provider to provide in-home services to a family referred by CFS.⁶

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.²

VERBAL CUE A nondirective listening technique that encourages a person to continue speaking, for example – “right,” “sure,” “yes.”¹

VERDICT The decision of a petit jury or a judge.²

VERIFICATION TESTING Verification testing is systematically performed on presumptively positive or altered samples prior to the issuance of the test results; and assistance with interpretation of the test results if requested.⁶

VIOLENCE The exertion of physical force so as to injure, abuse, or control.⁵

VISITATION PLAN Written guidelines to help maintain frequent and regular contact among children/youth in out-of home placement and their parents and siblings. This term is being replaced by the term “parenting time.”

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.²

VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT An agreement signed by the parent(s) or guardian of a child placing the child in the Department’s custody.  For Indian children, Voluntary Placement Agreements require that the consent to the placement 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.

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.

VULNERABLE CHILD A child/youth that does not have sufficient capacity for self-protection.⁵

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."²⁰

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.²

WITNESS A person whose declaration under oath is received as evidence for any purpose.¹

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WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) A governmental program for low-income mothers and their children 0-3 years of age. It provides financial assistance for baby supplies and food, as well as medical care.¹

WRIT A formal written command, issued from the court, requiring the performance of a specific act.²

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.²

Y

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.⁵

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.

YOUTH REHABILITATION AND TREATMENT CENTER – GENEVA (YRTC-G) A staff-secure institutional program and facility operated by NDHHS-OJS for female juvenile offenders who cannot be safely or successfully managed in other less-restrictive community placements. Youths can be assigned to a YRTC placement only through the order of a judge.

YOUTH REHABILITATION AND TREATMENT CENTER – KEARNEY (YRTC-K) A staff-secure institutional program and facility operated by NDHHS-OJS for male juvenile offenders who cannot be safely or successfully managed in other less-restrictive community placements. 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.

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- ¹ Based in whole or in part on *Helping in Child Protective Services: A Competency-Based Casework Handbook*, 2nd Edition. (2004)
- ² Provided by the CCFL Legal Training Team
- ³ From 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)
- ⁴ Based on materials provided by E.M. Grealish, expert in Family/Person Centered Practice
- ⁵ Based on Nebraska Administrative Memos #16-2013 and #17-2013
- ⁶ Glossary of Terms Children and Family Services, http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Documents/07_Glossary_of_Terms.pdf
- ⁷ NDHHS-DCFS Safety and In-Home Services Contract
- ⁸ Bureau of Indian Affairs web site: <http://www.bia.gov/>
- ⁹ NDHHS web site: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- ¹⁰ Provided by the Indian Child Welfare Program Specialist, Policy Section, Division of Children and Family Services Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (2009)
- ¹¹ Adoption.com, <http://library.adoption.com/articles/helpful-adoption-terms-to-know.html>
- ¹² NFAPA Adoption: A Guide for Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Families
http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Documents/AdpGuide.pdf
- ¹³ Adoption Services Guidebook, http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Guidebooks/Adoption%20Services%20Guidebook.pdf
- ¹⁴ Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph.D., http://www.childtrauma.org/ctamaterials/AttCar4_03_v2.pdf (accessed 7/6/09)
- ¹⁵ Based on the Structured Decision Making System for Child Protective Services by the Children's Research Center
- ¹⁶ Provided by the CCFL Case Management Training Team
- ¹⁷ Provided by the DHHS-CCFL Adoption Training Team
- ¹⁸ Adoption Glossary: <http://glossary.adoption.com>
- ¹⁹ Adoption Nebraska: <http://www.adoptionnebraska.com>
- ²⁰ Child Welfare: <http://www.childwelfare.gov>
- ²¹ Based on *Trying Hard Is Not Good Enough: How to Produce Measurable Improvements for Customers and Communities*, by Mark Friedman and the Results Leadership Group®
- ²² DHHS Independent Living Guidebook, 2005
- ²³ Excerpted from: *The Compassion Fatigue Workbook*, Francoise Mathieu
- ²⁴ Provided by the CCFL Children, Youth, and Families Training Team
- ²⁵ Central Plain Center for Services, 2013
- ²⁶ Right Turn®, <http://www.rightturne.org/>
- ²⁷ CCFL Website, http://ccfl.unl.edu/projects_outreach/projects/previous/RCCANT.php
- ²⁸ *Medical Necessity Criteria Guidelines, Adapted for Magellan Behavioral Health of Nebraska, Inc.*, 2013 (Effective September 1, 2013). Document can be accessed from:
http://www.magellanofnebraska.com/media/543473/2013-09_clinical_medical_necessity_guidelines_v2.pdf -- or --
go.unl.edu/mednecessity (accessed October 29, 2013).

ACRONYMS AND INITIALISMS IN CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

504	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

AA	Alcoholics Anonymous or Affirmative Action
AAA	Area Agency on Aging
AABD	Assistance to the Aged, Blind and Disabled
ABFC	Agency Based Foster Care
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
A&D Waiver	Aged and Disabled Waiver
AFCARS	Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System
AFS	Adolescent and Family Services
APS	Adult Protective Services
ARC	Association for Retarded Citizens
ARSATP	Adolescent Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program
ASAM	American Society of Addiction Medicine
ASFA	Adoption and Safe Families Act
ASFC	Agency Support Foster Care
ASI	Addiction Severity Index
ASL	American Sign Language

BD	Behavior Disorder
BDE	Bendex Data Exchange (SSA interface)
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BSDC	Beatrice State Development Center
BTI	Boys Town Institute for Child Health Improvement

CA	Chronological Age
CAA	Community Action Agency
CAC	Child Advocacy Center
CAFAS	Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale
CA/N	Child Abuse and Neglect
CAP	Community Action Program or Corrective Action Plan
CAPTA	Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocate
CASI	Comprehensive Adolescent Severity Inventory
CB	Children's Bureau
CC	Child Care
CCA	Child Caring Agency
CCAA	Comprehensive Child and Adolescent Assessment
CCC	Community Continuum of Care (Lancaster)
CCDF	Child Care and Development Fund
CCFL	Center on Children, Families, and the Law
CCS	Comprehensive Community Services (Douglas/Sarpy)
CD	Chemical Dependency or Conduct Disorder
CDC	Centers for Disease Control

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CDT	Competency Development Tool
CEC	Council for Exceptional Children
CFA	Comprehensive Family Assessment
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFS	Child and Family Services
CFS	Children and Family Services
CFSS	Child and Family Services Specialist
CFSP	Child and Family Services Plan
CFSR	Child and Family Services Review
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
CPS	Child Protective Services
CQI	Comprehensive 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
CWD	Children with Disabilities
CW	Child Welfare
CWU	Child Welfare Unit
CWIS	Child Welfare Information System
CW & JS	Child Welfare and Juvenile Services
CWLA	Child Welfare League of America
CY	Calendar Year

DAS	Department of Administrative Services
DSM-IV-TR	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
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
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DMLTC	Division of Medicaid and Long Term Care
DOB	Date of Birth
DOE	Department of Education

EA	Emergency Assistance or Economic Assistance
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
EBT	Electronic Benefit Transfer
ECICC	Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council

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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
EMH	Educable Mentally Handicapped
ENCOMH	Eastern Nebraska Community Office of Mental Health
ENCOR	Eastern Nebraska Community Office of Retardation
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

FAE	Fetal Alcohol Effects
FAPE	Free and Appropriate Public Education
FAS	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
FC	Foster Care
FCP	Family Centered Practice (See also F/PCP)
FCPAY	Foster Care Payment Determination Checklist
FCRB	Foster Care Review Board
FERPA	Family Educational Right and Privacy Act
FGC	Family Group Conferencing
FGDM	Family Group Decision Making
FH	Foster Home
FICC	Federal Interagency Coordinating Council
F/PCP	Family/Person Centered Practice
FPLS	Federal Parent Locator Services
FS	Food Stamps or Family Support
FS-VOS	Family Support – Visitation Only Services
FSP	Food Stamp Program
FSS	Family Support Services
FSW	Family Support Worker
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
FTS	Field Training Specialist
FTT	Failure to Thrive
FWP	Former Ward Program
FYC	Foster Youth Council

GA	General Assistance
GAL	Guardian ad Litem

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GAP	Federal Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program
GED	General Educational Development
GBC	Gaps and Barriers Committee (Early Childhood Interagency Coordination Council)
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
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

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
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
I&R	Information and Referral
IS&T	Information Systems and Technology
IT	Information Technology
ITC	Industrial Training Center (sheltered workshop)
IV-E	Title IV-E of the Social Security Act

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
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
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

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
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
N-FOCUS	Nebraska Family Online Client User System
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

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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
NRRS	Nebraska Resource and Referral System
NRS	Nebraska Revised Statutes
NSA	Northern Service Area
NYTD	National Youth in Transition Database

OCR	Office of Civil Rights
ODD	Oppositional Defiant Disorder
OJJD	Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
OJS	Office of Juvenile Services
OJT	On-the-Job Training
O&M	Orientation and Mobility
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

PA	Public Assistance
PALS	Preparation for Adult Living Services
Para	Paraprofessional or Para-educator
PASS	Plans to Achieve Self-Support
PDE	Pre-Disposition Evaluation
PDI	Pre-Disposition Investigation
PECAN	Prevent Excessive Cryptic Acronyms in Nebraska
PIP	Program Improvement Plan
PLEP	Present Level of Educational Performance
PO	Parole Officer or Probation Officer
PRFC	Professional Resource Family Care
PRTF	Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility
PRIDE	Parent Resources for Information Development and Education
P&S or PS	Protection and Safety
PSA	Protection and Safety Administrator
PSS	Protection and Safety Supervisor
PST	Protection and Safety Trainee
PSW	Protection and Safety Worker
PT	Physical Therapy
PTA	Pre-Treatment Assessment
PTI	Parent Training and Information
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control

RAD	Reactive Attachment Disorder
RBA	Results Based Accountability
RC	Respite Care
R&CS	Residential and Community Service
RD	Resource Development
RDA	Resource Development Administrator
RE	Residential Evaluation

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RFB	Request for Bids
RFP	Request for Proposal
RH	Respite Home
RN	Registered Nurse
RTC	Residential Treatment Center
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
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
SEISIS	Special Education Student Information System
SEW	State Employer Wage File
SFY	State Fiscal Year
SLD	Specific Learning Disabilities
SLI	Speech Language Impairment
SLP	Speech Language Pathologist
SN	Special Needs
SO	Status Offender or Sex Offender
SOB	State Office Building
SOR	Sex Offender Registry
SPED	Special Education
SSA	Social Security Administration, Social Services Administrator, or Social Security Act
SSBG	Social Services Block Grant
SSCF	Social Services for Children and Families
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
SSN	Social Security Number
SSW	Social Services Worker

TAB	Training Administration Building
TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
TBR	Transitional Benefit Report
TFC	Treatment Foster Care
TFH	Treatment Foster Home
TGH	Treatment Group Home
ThGH	Therapeutic Group Home
TLP	Transitional Living Program
TMA	Transitional Medical Assistance
TPSW	Tribal Protection and Safety Worker
TPR	Termination of Parental Rights
TR	Tracker

UA	Urinalysis
UC	Unemployment Compensation
UI	Unemployment Insurance
UM	Utilization Management

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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
YRTC-K	Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center - Kearney

Thanks PTI Nebraska (Parent Training and Information for Families and Children with Special Needs) for supplementing our acronym list with some terms from their *Alphabet Soup Made Palatable* listing.

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