

# System of Care

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## **GLOSSARY & ACRONYMS**

2017-2018



This manual is a working document compiled by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation in partnership with the Division of Behavioral Health for use by those developing and implementing the Nebraska System of Care (NeSOC). This manual contains terms and acronyms from the following:

- Nebraska System of Care (NeSOC), Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, SOC Expansion and Sustainability FOA No. SM-16-009 application.
- Child Protection and Safety, Definitions and Terms to Support the Work of Child and Family Services Specialists, Revised June 9, 2016, Developed for DHHS-Division of Children and Family Services by DHHS and UNL-CCFL.
- Evidence-Based Nebraska Definitions, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute. Updated December 2016.
- Statutory Definitions Related to Education of Children in Out-of-Home Care, December 1, 2016, Nebraska Department of Education's Initiative on Education of Systems-Involved Students (ESIS).
- Tool Kit For Systems Involved In Education of Students in Out-of-Home Care, Acronyms: Alphabet Soup Make Palatable, Nebraska Department of Education's Initiative on Education of Systems-Involved Students (ESIS).
- Santee Sioux Nation Society of Care, SOC Expansion and Sustainability FOA No. SM061650, an inter-tribal initiative engaging and serving Native American youth & families throughout Nebraska and northeast Kansas.

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## GLOSSARY

### -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.<sup>2</sup>

**Abandonment:** A child is without an appropriate caregiver due to the intentional act and decision of the parent not to care for the child.<sup>2</sup>

**ABFC:** Agency-Based Foster Care

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

**Absences:** The youth was not in attendance for their scheduled drug court hearing or related activity due to an identifiable reason (i.e. illness, unrelated detention).

**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-Emotional:** Information indicates psychopathological or disturbed behavior in a child which is documented by a psychiatrist, psychologist or licensed mental health practitioner to be the result of continual scapegoating, rejection or exposure to violence by the child's parent/caretaker.

Domestic violence is the establishment of control and fear in a relationship through the use of violence and other forms of abuse. 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 abuse, but control is the primary goal of all offenders. (Massachusetts Department of Social Services, 1993).

The primary focus of NDHHS intervention in domestic violence cases is the ongoing assessment of the risk and safety posed to children by the presence of domestic violence. The preferred way to protect children in most domestic violence cases is to join with the non-offending parents in safety planning and to hold offenders accountable.

**Abuse-Physical:** 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.

Use of physical discipline in and of itself does not necessarily constitute child abuse. Nebraska Rev. Stat. 28-1413 identifies the use of force can be used for the "purpose of safeguarding or promoting the welfare of the minor including the prevention or punishment of his or her misconduct," and force IS permissible "as long as the force does not cause or is known to create

a substantial risk of causing death, serious bodily harm, disfigurement, extreme pain or mental distress or gross degradation."

The worker will need to examine the "level" of force the parent uses as well as the age and vulnerability of the child to assess if this is parental discipline or maltreatment. It is never appropriate to physically discipline an infant.

NOTE: The Department discourages the use of physical discipline. It is not allowed in child care, foster care and other Department-licensed settings.

THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES SHOULD NOT BE LOOKED AT IN ISOLATION. WORKERS NEED TO ASSESS ALL SAFETY FACTORS WHEN MAKING A DETERMINATION TO ACCEPT A REFERRAL.

Example # 1. Parent/caretaker uses an instrument to hit the child on the lower body. There is no bruising and no injury to the child. (Instrument could be a hand, stick, belt, board). If there is no injury to the child this referral would not meet the definition of physical abuse. Again, consider age of child, object used and overall circumstances to determine risk of serious injury.

Example # 2. Parent/caretaker slaps adolescent on face, yanks adolescent by the hair and pulls their ears. If no injury to the adolescent, this would not meet the definition of physical abuse.

Example # 3. Parent/caretaker physically restrains child by holding child's arms, laying on top of child, or shoves child against the wall. If the level of force used by the parents does not cause an injury to the child and there are no other risk factors, this referral would not meet the physical abuse definition.

Example # 4. Parent/caretaker puts tabasco or soap on child's tongue.- Age of child and volume of substance used and harm or risk of harm to the child needs to be assessed when making a determination.

Example # 5. Parent/caretaker slaps child, leaving a red mark that has not faded after several hours, and is observed by reporting party -- this would be taken as a referral of possible abuse.

Example # 6. Parent/caretaker pushes child into wall or furniture during altercation. No injury is observable to reporter; however, child reports significant pain or difficulty in moving a limb due to the incident. A referral would be consistent with the definition of physical abuse.

**Abuse-Sexual:** Information indicates 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.

Examples of sexual abuse include, but are not limited to, fondling, sexual intercourse, sexual stimulation, incest and sexual exploitation.

**Academic:** A skill-building program component providing tutors or educational opportunities to improve academic skills and outcomes.

**Acquittal:** Judgment that a criminal defendant has not been proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

**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.

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.

**Actual Graduation Year:** The four-digit year the youth completed their high school education.

**Action of a Sexual Nature:** The youth engaged in sexual behaviors or mannerisms such as sexual intercourse, fondling of another's sex organs, or masturbating or touching of their genitals.

**Adaptive Coping (Crisis Response):** Constructive coping techniques or methods were identified to assist the youth with minimizing distress.

**ADD:** Attention Deficit 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).

**ADHD:** Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

**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.

**Adjudication:** The process of rendering a judicial decision as to whether the facts alleged in a petition or other pleadings are true. Judicial determination (judgement) that a juvenile is

responsible for the delinquency or status offense that is charged in a petition or other charging document.

**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.

**Administration:** (Fiscal administration, grant administration): Monitors spending and deployment of resources while describing and analyzing department's financial position.

**Administrative Hearing:** A due process hearing held to appeal a decision made by a state agency.

**Admission (Detention):** The youth was presented to detention and through the book-in process it was decided the youth would be admitted. The youth is assigned a housing unit, property was taken, and they are to remain in the facility for longer than 24 hours. A youth transitioning between staff secure and secure, or vice versa, will be readmitted.

**Adoptee:** An adopted person.

**Adoption:** The method provided by law to establish the legal relationship of parent and child with the same mutual rights and obligations that exist between children and their birth parents.

For some Indian children, depending upon tribal custom and tradition, parents' rights may remain intact yet the child is adopted, resulting in three or more parents who all have parental rights.

**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](http://www.adoptionnebraska.com).

**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.<sup>9</sup>

**Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA):** Passed in 1997, ASFA provides both changes and clarification of policies of the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act. Intended to improve

safety of children, promote adoptions and permanent homes for children, and support families. Stipulates that child safety is of paramount importance during reunification efforts and provides exceptions to reasonable efforts requirements (but this does not impact the ICWA requirement for active efforts). Requires concurrent planning; provides financial incentives and technical assistance to states to promote adoption activities; includes system accountability and reform provisions; and outlines state requirements for performance measures for state child welfare programs. It also promotes the study of kinship placement feasibility. (Public Law [P.L.] 105-89)

**Adoption Assistance: (also known as adoption subsidies)** See Also: **Subsidized Adoption , Adoption Subsidies** Federal (title IV-E of the Social Security Act) or State benefits granted to adoptive families to offset the short- and long-term costs of adopting eligible children who have special needs (defined differently in each State). Benefits vary by state but commonly include monthly cash payments, medical assistance, social services, and nonrecurring adoption expenses.

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

**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.

**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."

**Adoption Disruption:** Termination of an adoptive placement prior to finalization of the adoption.

**Adoption Dissolution:** Legal termination of an adoption that has been finalized, including legal termination of the adoptive parent(s)' rights.

**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.

**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.



**Adoption Registry:** A central repository of profiles for all families approved for adoption or foster-adoption by the Department and available for such a placement.

**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.

**Adoption Subsidies:** See Also: **Adoption Assistance (also known as adoption subsidies)**

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

**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."

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

**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.<sup>10</sup>

**Adoptive Placement** See Also: **Pre-Adoptive Placement:** A type of placement that has not been finalized by a Decree of Adoption issued by a county or juvenile court.

**Adoptive Placement Of An Indian Child** See Also: **Child Custody Proceeding (ICWA Specific Language).**

**Adult:** An individual 19 years or older.

**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.

**Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs):** ACEs include verbal, physical, or sexual abuse as well as family dysfunction (an incarcerated, mentally ill, or substance-abusing family member, domestic violence, and absence of a parent due to divorce or separation).

**Advocacy:** Supporting and guiding a youth and/or their family through the juvenile justice system.

**After School Programs:** Summer and after-school activities designed to reduce juvenile crime through constructive activity.

**Age at First Use:** The number associated with the years the youth was living when they initially engaged in substance use.

**Age of Majority:** The youth no longer participates in the program nor receives services relevant to the program due to reaching the age of adulthood as recognized or indicated in state statute. For the purposes of the *Nebraska Juvenile Code*, means nineteen years of age. ( *Nebraska Revised Statute (NRS) § 43-245(2)*)

**Alias Names:** The additional full name(s) or nicknames used by the youth to identify themselves separate from their legal full name.

**Alternative Response (AR):** An approach that allows a response to low-risk reports of child abuse and neglect in a way that is different than a traditional investigation. Family assessments are conducted to determine the family's strengths and needs as well as to assess for child safety and risk. Families will be connected to the supports and services they need in order to enhance the parent's ability to keep their children safe and healthy. Low-risk reports of child abuse and neglect will be assigned to a Children and Family Services Specialist (CFSS) who will begin the assessment process. Research shows that families who receive an assessment rather than an investigation are more likely to be receptive to and engage in services when they are approached in a non-adversarial, non-accusatory manner. Law enforcement agencies will receive all reports assigned for an Alternative Response as they do with traditional responses.

**Alternative Schools:** Academic enrichment programs where services are focused on youth expelled or suspended from their home school system.

**ATD (Alternatives to Detention):** A program or directive that increases supervision of a youth who would otherwise be securely detained, in an effort to ensure the youth attends court and refrains from committing a new law violation. The alternative shall least restrict the youth's freedom of movement, provided the alternative is compatible with the best interest of the youth and the community. Examples include: electronic monitoring, day and evening reporting centers, tracker, and shelter care.

**Alternative to Detention Respite:** Respite care for children provides temporary relief for parents and other caregivers through a temporary absence of the child from their family; this is not an extended placement.

**Assessment:** Brief process to identify immediate mental health and/or behavioral risks and needs.

**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.

Attachment may be expressed differently from culture to culture.

**Attending:** A non-directive listening technique that refers primarily to eye contact and body language but also includes following a client verbally. Body language (e.g., eye contact and body posture) that indicates listening and focus on the speaker; also includes verbal following. Attending may be impacted by culture.

**Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD):** An older term referring to individuals with the predominantly inattentive form of ADHD.

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

**Average Daily Population (ADP):** The ADP is calculated by dividing the total number of days all youth spent in a program or detention by the number of days in a specified period.

**Average Length of Stay (ALOS):** The length of stay is the duration of a single admission, enrollment, or participation in detention or a program to the point the youth is released, discharged, or the case is closed. The ALOS is calculated by subtracting the day of admission, enrollment, or participation from the day of discharge, release, or case closure.

**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.

-B-

**Backbone Support Organization:** The support organization serves as the backbone for the entire initiative and coordinates participating organizations and agencies. Dedicated staff separate from the participating organizations who can plan, manage, and support the initiative through ongoing facilitation, technology and communications support, data collection and reporting, and handling logistical and administrative details needed for the initiative to function well.

**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.

**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.

**Battery Violation:** A youth placed on an electronic monitor failed to ensure the effective operation of the power source resulting in an inability of program staff to supervise the location of the youth.

**Behavioral:** A skill-building program component that reinforces positive behaviors or is designed to elicit desired behaviors, such as token economy or behavior contract.

**BDE:** Bendex Data Exchange (SSA interface)

**Beginning Of Foster Care:** The 60 days after placement in out-of-home care.

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

**Behavioral Contracting (Crisis Response):** Detailed expectations for the youth and potentially the family identifying a strategy for minimizing distress.

**Bench Trial:** Trial without a jury in which a judge decides the facts.

**Best Interest Determination:** For the purposes of foster children, refers to a child remaining in such child's school of origin, unless a determination is made that it is not in such child's best interest to attend the school of origin. (*Source: 20 U.S.C. § 6311(g)(1)(E)(i)*)

Factors to be considered in a **Best Interest Determination** include:

Preferences of the parents;

Child's attachment to the school, including relationships with staff and peers;

- Placement of the child's siblings;
- Influence of the school climate on the child, including safety;
- Availability and quality of services;
- Impact that previous school transfers had on the child;
- Length of the commute and how that would affect the child based on the child's developmental stage;

- Whether the child is a child with a disability under IDEA or under Section 504 and the availability of those services in another school; and
- Whether the child is an English Learner (EL) receiving services and the availability of those services.

*(Source: Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, June 23, 2016)*

**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.

**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).

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

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

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

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

**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.

**Book-In (Detention):** Youth is presented to detention and taken into a locked area of the facility; admission may not yet be determined. Probation may conduct an intake at this time to determine if youth will be detained, released with conditions, or released. The stay within the locked facility is less than 24 hours.

**Braided Funding:** Braided funding involves multiple funding streams utilized to pay for all of the services needed by a given population, with careful accounting of how every dollar from each stream is spent. The term braiding is used because multiple funding streams are initially

separate, brought together to pay for more than any one stream can support, and then carefully pulled back apart to report to funders on how the money was spent.

**Bridge to Independence Program (B2I):** The program provides extended services and supports to young people aging out of the foster care system. Services include housing support, medical assistance and case management.

**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.

**Bullying:** Programs that respond to bullying behaviors while addressing community social and emotional concerns through cooperative action of all stakeholders.

**Burden of Proof:** The legal burden of producing evidence or persuading the fact finder within the legal system.

**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.

**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.

-C-

**CAC:** Child Advocacy Center

**Call Time:** The hour, minute, and period of day the crisis response program received telephone communication requesting crisis response services.

**Capital Offense:** A crime punishable by death.

**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.

**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.

**Case:** A specific youth referred to the program requiring the reporting of their involvement with the program.

#### **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**

The initial assessment closes when: 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.
- 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."
- **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.

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

**Case Outcome Placement:** The type of location/entity the youth was placed as a result of the initial crisis response incident.

**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.

**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. For Indian children/youth, case planning includes contacting and involving the tribe at the earliest opportunity.

**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 & safety staff.

**Central Register:** 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.

**Challenge:** A skill-building program component using activities and situations promoting experiential learning by mastering difficult or stressful tasks.

**Chambers:** A judge's office.

**Charges:** Pre-adjudicated offense(s) at time of admission that required the participation in the program.

**Child/Youth:** For purposes of the Administrative Office of Probation, children and youth are collectively defined as the stage from birth to age 24. For purposes of the Division of Children and Family Services, 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.

**Child Abuse And Neglect (CA/N):** See Also: **Child/Youth Maltreatment , Maltreatment Abuse** and neglect are types of child maltreatment.

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

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

**Child 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.

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

**Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Outcomes:** The outcomes identified by the federal government to address issues related to safety, permanency, and well-being.

**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.

Any person other than the parent or legal guardian of a child that receives the child for placement and places or arranges for the placement of a child in a foster family home, adoptive home, residential child-caring agency, or independent living. (*Source: NRS § 71-1926(3)*)

**Child Custody Proceeding (ICWA SPECIFIC LANGUAGE):** See Also: **Pre-Adoptive Placement , Termination Of Parental Rights (TPR) , Adoptive Placement of an Indian Child** 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.

**Child Placing Agency:** An organization authorized by its articles of incorporation to place children in foster family or adoptive homes.

**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.

**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.

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

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

**Child with a Disability:** A child who has been verified pursuant to 92 NAC 51-006 as a child with autism, a behavior disorder (emotional disorder), deaf-blindness, a developmental delay, a hearing impairment including deafness, an intellectual disability, multiple impairment, an orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, a specific learning disability, a speech-language impairment, a traumatic brain injury, or a visual impairment including blindness, who because of this impairment needs special education and related services. (*Source: 92 NAC 51-003.08*)

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

**Children Have A Right To Support (CHARTS):** The name of a statewide computer system in Nebraska that supports centralized collection and disbursement of child support.

**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.

**Classes:** Instructional/educational group sessions (2 or more youth and/or families) provided to the youth and/or families related to a specific focus area.

**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 ongoing review of the youth's case plan and level of supervision.

**Class Name:** The identifier given to the instructional/educational group session (2 or more youth) as recognized by the program and stakeholders.

**Class Objective:** The category that best identifies the specific focus area of the instructional/educational group session (2 or more youth and/or families).

**Class Periods:** The length of an instructional/educational session.

**Class Type:** The category that best identifies the specific focus area of the instructional/educational group session (two or more youth).

**Clear and Convincing Evidence:** The amount of evidence needed to convince ordinarily prudent-minded people that the evidence is strongly in favor of one of the parties. It is more

than a preponderance of evidence. Clear and convincing evidence is the standard of proof needed to place an Indian child in foster care.

**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.

**Closed Adoption: See Also: Adoption with Exchange of Information** An adoptive situation in which there is no contact or exchange of information between birth relatives(s) and adoptive parent(s) after a decree of adoption is issued.

**Closed Fracture:** A fracture of the bone with no skin wound.

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

**Cognitive Behavioral:** A skill-building program component aimed at changing distorted thinking or dysfunctional behavior patterns through involvement in therapeutic techniques.

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

**Collateral Contacts:** Individuals or entities knowledgeable about the youth that were contacted to provide information relevant to the assessment. 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.

**Collective Impact Coordinator:** Oversees the structuring of community resources and directing efforts to collectively effect meaningful systemic change regarding complex social issues.

**Commitment:** An order by the court committing a child to the care and custody of the Department of Health and Human Services.

**Commitment Date:** A date that a child is made a Department ward via court order or voluntary relinquishment.

**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.

**Community:** In this plan "*community*" is in reference to "*location*" and indicates a large group living in close proximity. Examples range from the local neighborhood, town, city, region, or state. Occasionally it may be in reference to a group of people with a common identity other than location. Examples include a shared identity such as professional, cultural, religious, ethnicity, etc.

**Community Mentoring:** is a mentoring model where a positive adult is engaged in the youth's life by spending time in the community together. The match is based on interests, hobbies, and compatibility in order to spend time together to share fun activities they both enjoy. The goal of this mentoring model is to reduce drug and alcohol use and antisocial behavior through establishing a supportive friendship and providing guidance.

**Community Monitoring:** A youth is supervised in the community through structured educational and employment related group settings. The youth's employment competencies may further be enhanced through structured work experience geared toward building relationships with the community while providing structured supervision as an alternative to detention.

**Community Planning:** Dynamic workgroup focused on improving the welfare of people and their communities, particularly with youth and their families, by creating more convenient, equitable, healthful, efficient, and attractive places for present and future generations. A plan is developed through analysis of data and the identification of goals and strategies for the community or the project.

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

**Community Service:** A restorative program component provided to offenders to volunteer their time in the community working to aide a population and/or organization in the community without compensation.

**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.

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

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

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

**Complaint:** A written statement by a plaintiff stating the wrongs allegedly committed by the defendant.

**Compliant with Program Requirements:** Youth no longer participates in the program nor receives services relevant to the program due to their successful completion of the program. Successful completion includes completion of referred participation requirements or court decision to remove the youth from the program due to compliance with program/orders or placement in a setting that was pending while they participated in the program.

**Compound Fracture:** An open fracture; a fracture in which the bone is broken and protruding through the skin. Compare to definition for closed fracture.

**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.

**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.

**Conditions of Liberty Agreement (COL):** A behavioral contract that identifies the rules and special conditions with which the youth must comply during community supervision. The agreement supports the goals of the case plan.

**Conference Attendees:** The individuals or entities involved in the contact made with the youth to resolve a conflict.

**Conference Duration:** The length of time in minutes from the beginning of the mediation process until the outcome was determined.

**Conference Facilitator:** The individual coordinating or leading the mediation process during a specific contact.

**Conference Outcome:** The type of result from the contact made with the youth to resolve a conflict.

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

**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:** Program staff see and/or communicate with the youth and/or family.

**Contact Person/Case Worker:** Name and title of the system level individual (i.e. PO, DHHS) for communication with that is assigned to the youth during the time of their participation in the program.

**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.

**Continuance:** The postponement of a hearing, trial or other scheduled court proceeding, at the request of one or both parties, or by the judge without consulting them.

**Continuous Monitoring (Drug Court):** The number of days of direct supervision by another individual to ensure sobriety of the youth.

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

**Conviction:** The finding that an individual is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of committing a crime.

**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.

**Coordinator:** Conducts administrative and human resource tasks. The role oversees the implementation of the program policy and procedures.

**Corporal Punishment:** Physical punishment inflicted directly on the body.<sup>9</sup>

**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.

**Counseling Program Components:** Youth participated in aspects of the program during their participation that focused on treatment through assistance in resolving personal, social, or psychological related issues.

**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.

**County Detention Home:** A detention home in connection with the juvenile courts of this state established and maintained by the county boards of the counties of Nebraska pursuant to section 43-2,110 R.R.S. that provides regular or special education services with a special education rate approved by the Department (of Education). (*Source: 92 NAC 18-002.05*)

**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."

**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.

**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.<sup>13</sup>

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Courtesy Assessment:** An assessment completed at the request of another state jurisdiction without continuing involvement of DHHS.

**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.

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

**Credits at Admission:** Number of total academic credits earned prior to participation in the program.

**Credits at Discharge:** Number of total academic credits earned while in the program and assessed at time of discharge.

**Credits Earned to Date:** The number of academic credits the youth has received in order to graduate as assessed at the time of intake to the program.

**Credits Required to Date:** The number of academic credits the youth needs in order to graduate as assessed at the time of intake to the program.

**Criminal History:** A county, state, or federal criminal history of conviction or pending indictment of a misdemeanor or felony.

**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.

**Crisis Respite:** Respite care for children provides temporary relief for parents and other caregivers through a temporary absence of the child from their family. This is not an extended placement.

**Crisis Response:** Teams trained to intervene in cases where juvenile's health or safety is threatened, resolves serious conflicts between parent/guardian and juvenile regarding conduct/repeated disregard for authority, a pattern of repeated absence from school, or runaway behaviors.

**Crisis Stabilization:** Assistance provided to the youth aimed at minimizing the severity of distress and transition them to daily functioning.

**Crisis Stabilization Shelter:** A nonsecure residential care program for youth provided for a limited period of time. The program focuses on minimizing the severity of distress and providing targeted treatment to aid their transition to daily functioning in addition to aspects of a basic shelter care program.

**Cross Examination:** Generally, an adversary's examination of a witness after the witness has been examined by direct examination.

**Crossover Youth:** Programs that address the unique needs of youth who are dually involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice system.



**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.

**Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards:** The National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care (the National CLAS Standards) are intended to advance health equity, improve quality, and help eliminate health care disparities by providing a blueprint for individuals and health and health care organizations to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate services.<sup>1</sup>

**Cultural and Linguistic Competence (CLC):** Cultural competence is the integration and transformation of knowledge, behaviors, attitudes and policies that enable policy makers, professionals, caregivers, communities, consumers and families to work effectively in cross-cultural situations. Cultural competence is a developmental process that evolves over an extended period of time. Individuals, organizations and systems are at various levels of awareness, knowledge and skills along the cultural competence continuum.<sup>2</sup>

**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.<sup>5</sup>

**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.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Accessed from the US Health and Human Services-The Office of Minority Health website on 6/3/14. <http://gucchdtacenter.georgetown.edu/publications/SOC%20ExpansionStrategies%20Issue%20Brief%20%20FINAL.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Accessed from the SAMHSA website on 6/4/14: <http://www.samhsa.gov/children/core-values.asp>

**Curfew Violation:** A youth neglected to ensure their physical presence at a designated location during a specified period of time.

**Current Grade:** Position (K-12) in a primary school of a youth to identify academic progress at the time of enrollment.

**Currently Placed Out of Home:** Indication that at time of enrollment, the youth was not living in his/her primary residence.

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

**Custody/Guardianship:** Within the Administrative Office of Probation, youth's primary living situation associated with the type of legal responsibility for the youth. Within the Division of Children and Family Services, 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.

**Cut-off Monitor Violation:** A youth on an electronic monitor removed the device from their person, phone, or designated residence without authorization, resulting in an inability of program staff to supervise the location of the youth.

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

**Data:** Information, tools, and resources used to conduct research and shape policy and practices.

**Date:** Two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year.

**Date Enrolled/Intake:** The two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year the youth began participating in the program (mm/dd/yyyy).

**Date Discharged:** The two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year the youth was discharged/released from the program and its services (mm/dd/yyyy).

**Date Mentoring Relationship Began:** The two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year the match between the mentor and the mentee was started as evidenced by communication specific to developing a relationship.

**Date Mentoring Relationship Ended:** The two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year the match between the mentor and mentee closed as contact is no longer needed nor made.

**Date of Birth:** The two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year the youth was born (mm/dd/yyyy).

**Date of Contact:** The two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year the program staff saw and/or communicated with the youth and/or family.

**Date of Follow-Up:** The two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year the crisis response staff connected with the youth and/or family after the initial crisis response incident to determine the status.

**Date of UA (Urinalysis) Screen:** The two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year of a drug test completed of the youth's urine in order to detect the presence of specific illegal drugs and prescription medications.

**Date Referred:** The two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year the youth was referred to the program; this may be the same or different than the date enrolled/intake (mm/dd/yyyy).

**Days Attended:** Number of days the youth physically attended or engaged in the program.

**Default Judgment:** A judgment rendered because of the defendant's failure to answer or appear.

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

**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.

**Detained at Discharge:** The youth was placed in a secure or staff-secure detention facility subsequent discharge from the program.

**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.

**Diagnostic And Statistical Manual Of Mental Disorders (DSM-5):** A system of classifying mental disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association that is utilized by licensed individuals able to diagnose mental health and/or substance use disorders. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services requires a person to meet diagnostic criteria listed in the DSM-5 to be eligible for mental health and/or substance use treatment services.

**DIF:** The Agency for Integral Family Development, the agency in Mexico charged with ensuring the welfare of minors.

**Direct Commitment:** A youth committed to the Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Juvenile Services for direct community supervision.

**Direct Event:** Entities in this category are often initiatives; they generally meet with a youth only once to host a prevention-type activity. These are generally events like a youth retreat, post-prom event, etc.

**Direct Evidence:** This applies to a witness who testifies from his/her sensory perceptions regarding facts to be proven.

**Direct Intervention:** Entities in this category are often programs; they generally meet with a youth multiple times over a specific period of time. Generally, the program relies on an educational or relationship based component to invoke behavioral change within the client.

**Direct Service:** Entities in this category are often agencies; they generally meet with a youth a few times to conduct a singular service. This could be to conduct an assessment or to help coordinate services.

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

**Discharge:** Within the Administrative Office of Probation, section that includes aspects of the youth's release from the program indicated that the youth no longer is under the care, supervision, and/or services of the program or detention for more than 24 hours. Within the Division of Children and Family Services, the termination of Department guardianship or custody of the child.

**Discharge Date:** The two-digit day, two-digit month, and four-digit year the youth was discharged from participation in the program.

**Discharge Reason:** The selected reason directly pertains to the youth no longer participating in the program nor receiving services relevant to the program.

**Discharge Placement:** Name and type of placement the youth was discharged to regardless if successful or unsuccessful.

**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.

**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 affect 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.

**Disorderly/Disruptive Behavior:** The hostile or defiant actions or mannerisms of a youth that negatively influence those around them.

**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.

**Disposition:** Within the Administrative Office of Probation, sanction ordered or treatment plan decided upon or initiated in a particular case by a juvenile court. The range of options available to a court typically includes commitment to an institution; placement in a group or foster home or other residential facility; probation; referral to an outside agency, day treatment, or mental health program; or imposition of a fine, community service, or restitution. Within the Division of Children and Family Services, the court's determination of a case in which there is an issuance of a final order or opinion.

**Dispositional Hearing:** This 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.

**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.

**Disproportionate Minority Confinement/Contact (DMC):** The phenomenon that documents statistically that minority youth are statistically overrepresented in the juvenile justice system (when the local system is compared to the local juvenile population).

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

**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.

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

**Diversion:** Programs aimed at steering minor law violations and low-risk youth away from the juvenile system who would otherwise have charges filed or be adjudicated.

**Docket:** A log containing brief entries of court proceedings.

**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.

**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. 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 nonreservation hospital, the child is considered to be domiciled on the reservation. For ICWA, a domicile of an Indian child on or near the reservation requires that the tribal court assume responsibility for the child.

**Drug Court:** A diversion program addressing criminal behavior driven by or related to substance abuse. Multi-phased program coordinating efforts of treatment, medical, judicial, and corrections officers to direct offenders away from criminal activity.

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

**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.

**Drug Test:** The analysis of urine, hair, blood, saliva, sweat, or other type of biological sample to detect the use of an illegal substance or some prescription medications.

**DSM-IV:** Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Version IV

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

-E-

**Early Assessment:** An individualized assessment is completed for a youth prior to referral to a diversion program or informal program to avoid charges filed.

**Early Childhood Intervention:** Integrating behavioral health services within primary care and early childhood service settings for children from birth to age seven.

**Early Development Network (EDN), The See Also: Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP):** 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 from 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. 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.

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

**Education And Training Voucher (ETV) Program:** Program that provides assistance with expenses related to post-secondary education for current and former foster youth 17-23.

**Educational Service Unit (ESU):** Refers to an educational service provider in the state's system of elementary and secondary education, as described in *Nebraska's Educational Service Units Act*. (Sources: NRS § 79-1202; NRS § 79-1204; and 92 NAC 84-002.07)

**EM (Electronic Monitoring):** Within the Administrative Office of Probation, an electronic device using a global positioning system, non-digital landline home-based system, or phone application that provides intensive supervision by monitoring the location of a youth that is reviewed by program personnel. Within the Division of Children and Family Services, 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.

**Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch:** Based on reported household income, the youth receives or could receive free or reduced lunch at their primary school.

**Email Address:** The series of letters, numbers, and/or symbols of the electronic postbox that can receive and/or send electronic mail via the internet and can be used as a means of contact for the youth.

**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.

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

**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 Respite Foster Care:** A non-secure residential care program wherein a youth is immediately placed in a foster home for a limited time in an effort to address risks and needs jeopardizing the safety of the youth and/or others.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.



**Employment First (EF):** The name of Nebraska's welfare reform program, which helps families achieve economic self-sufficiency through job training, education, and employment reparation. Employment First assists people through the transition from welfare to the workforce.

**Employment Skills:** Provides educational and support services to enhance job skills and improve employability.

**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 appeal 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*.

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

**End date:** The two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year the youth stopped participating in a specific class held for instructional/educational purposes to a group of youth (Two or more youth).

**End Time:** The hour, minute, and the period of day the initial crisis response ceased; this does not include follow-up.

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

**English Learner (EL):** An individual:

(A) who is aged 2 through 21;

(B) who is enrolled or preparing to enroll in an elementary school or secondary school;

(C) (i) who was not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English; who is Native American or Alaska native, or a native resident of the outlying areas; and

(ii) who comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on the individual's level of English language proficiency; OR

(iii) who is migratory, whose native language is a language other than English, and who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant; and

(D) whose difficulties in speaking, reading, writing or understanding the English language may be sufficient to deny the individual:

(i) the ability to meet the challenging state academic standards;

(ii) the ability to successfully achieve in classrooms where the language of instruction is English; OR

(iii) the opportunity to participate fully in society. (Source: 20 U.S.C. § 7801(20))

**Enhanced Shelter-Therapeutic:** A nonsecure residential care program for youth in need of short-term placement. The program focuses on providing intensive treatment services such as mental health or family treatment along with the aspects of a basic shelter care.

**Enrollment:** The date the youth enrolled into the program is the first day of active participation.

**Enrollment (ICWA Specific Language)** See Also: **Registration (ICWA Specific Language):** The formal written process of becoming listed on a tribe's register or rolls. This term is used interchangeably with registration, but it may or may not be the same as membership, depending upon the tribe's definitions of these terms. It is not necessary to be enrolled or registered with a tribe to be considered a member, but all persons who are enrolled or registered are members. Some tribes do not have enrollment, registration, or rolls.

**Enrollment Date:** The two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year the youth participated in the program.

**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.

**Estimated Amount:** The approximated value in US dollars of the incentive provided to the youth.

**Evaluations (Mental Health):** Intensive process to identify and potentially diagnose mental health risks needs.

**Evaluator:** An evaluator is an individual or group of individuals that conduct systematic data-based inquiries and provide competent performance to stakeholders pertaining to an organization, program, or focused community issue.

**Evidence:** Any sort of proof submitted to the court for the purpose of influencing the court's decision on a case.

**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.

**Evidence of Drug/Alcohol Intoxication:** The youth is visibly and verifiably under the influence of an illegal drug, alcohol, and/or prescription drug misuse.

**Excused UA (Urinalysis) Screen Result:** The youth was authorized to not complete a scheduled urine drug test while participating in the program.

**Exiting:** The two-digit day, two-digit month, and four-digit year the youth was discharged from participation in the program.

**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.

**Expected Graduation Year:** The four-digit year the youth is anticipated to complete their high school education.

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

**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.

**Extended Family Member** See Also: **Family:** Any member of the child's family, especially those who have relationships with the child. Although for a nonnative 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. 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 stepparent. For some tribes, extended family members may or may not be related by blood, such as clan or band members.

-F-

**Facilitator Name:** The legal name of the individual coordinating or leading the intervention process during a specific contact.

**Failure to Appear (FTA):** Youth no longer participates in the program nor receives services relevant to the program due to them not attending their required court hearing(s) at or within the summoned date and/or time.

**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.

**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. For Indian children, see also EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER. A counseling program component focusing on the familial relationship by involving the youth and their family in treatment with a certified adult(s) in family therapy.

**Family Communication:** The level of ability for the family to understand and meet the needs of all family members through the exchange of verbal and non-verbal information.

**Family-driven Care:** Family-driven means families have a primary decision-making role in the care of their own children as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all children in their community, state, tribe, territory and nation. This includes: choosing supports, services, and providers; setting goals; designing and implementing programs; monitoring outcomes; and determining the effectiveness of all efforts to promote the mental health of children and youth.

**Family Dynamics:** Interrelationships between and among individual family members.

**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.

**Family Function:** The level of ability of the family system to meet the needs of all members; assessed at time of enrollment/intake.

**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.

**Family Income:** The combined incomes of all people living within the youth's place of legal residence. This includes all forms of income such as salaries and wages, retirement funds, government assistance, child support, and **pensions**.

**Family Organizations:** A family-run organization is a private, nonprofit entity that meets the following criteria: Its explicit purpose is to serve families who have a child, youth, or adolescent with a serious emotional disorder (children, youth, and adolescents who have an emotional, behavioral, or mental disorder, age 0-18; or age 21), if served by an Individual Education Plan (IEP). It is governed by a board of directors comprised of a majority (at least 51%) of individuals who are family members. It gives preference to family members in hiring practices. It is incorporated as a private, nonprofit entity (i.e. 501C3).

**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.

**Family Preservation Services:** Services for children and families designed to help families (including adoptive, foster and extended families) at risk or in crisis, including services to help children at risk of foster care placement remain with their families, or where appropriate return to their families.

**Family Size:** Number of people living within the youth's place of legal residence.

**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.

**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 that can then be built into the case plan.

**Family Support:** Community-based services that promote the well-being of children and families as well as increase the strength and stability of families.

**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.

**Fee Waivers:** Providing financial assistance, compensation, or reduction for fees related to participation in a juvenile system level program, such as diversion.

**File Number:** The identifier of the youth for program purposes.

**First Name:** The personal legal name of the youth and used before the surname.

**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.

**Family Team Meeting:** A meeting with the family (biological or legal) and others who develop and monitor a plan for child safety, permanency and well-being and work toward sustainable change and support for the family and children. Additional members can include: informal supports (e.g., relatives, friends, peers, and pastors), DCFS Specialist and formal resources (e.g., professional service providers, teachers). For Indian children, tribal ICWA Specialists from the child's tribe(s) are invited to attend family team meetings.

**Family/Person-Centered Practice (F/PCP)** See Also: **Family-Centered Practice (FCP):** 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.

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

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

**Federally Recognized Tribe** See Also: **Indian Tribe:** Any Indian Tribe, band, nation or other organized group or community of Indians recognized as eligible for the services provided to Indians by the Secretary of the Interior because of their status as Indians, including any Alaska native village.

**Felony:** A crime carrying a penalty of more than a year in prison.

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

**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)** See Also: **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS):** A newer inclusive term that refers to the range of adverse effects to a fetus from exposure to alcohol during pregnancy. See also other terms applied to children with FASD including FAE, FAS, ARBD, and ARND.

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

**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.

**Final Risk Level:** The final risk level after overrides, which may be low, moderate, high, or very high.

**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.

**Finalization Of Adoption:** Issuance of a decree of adoption by the court in which the adoption petition was filed.

**First Treatment:** The two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year the youth actively began receiving treatment services from the program.

**Flexible Service Funds:** Flexible service funds are a crucial resource in supporting a child/youth and their family. The funds are used to help support individualized wraparound plans that are identified by the family, allowing purchase of services that typically cannot be accessed in any other way. All possible funding options are explored before making available flexible service dollars, including traditional funding streams, entitlements, agency funds and parent/community contributions. Common examples of how flexible service funds are used include: community programs that support a child/youth's interests and strengths (art, sports, music); camp or after-school programs for working families; time-limited job stipend for a youth; respite opportunities for family members to spend quality time together; bus tickets to

support a family's participation in support groups or other activities; and emergency funds to provide help with basic needs, such as food, furniture or clothing.

**Follow-Up Services Provided:** After the crisis response personnel connected with the youth and/or family, referrals or additional assistance was given to further address the needs of the youth and/or family; the type of service or assistance is noted.

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

**Foreign National Minors:** Any unmarried person who is under the age of eighteen and was born in a country other than the United States.

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

**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.

**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)

**Forty (40) Developmental Assets:** Are 40 research-based, positive qualities that influence young people's development, helping them become caring, responsible, and productive adults. Based in youth development, resiliency, and prevention research, the Developmental Assets framework has proven to be effective and has become the most widely used approach to positive youth development in the United States and, increasingly, around the world. The framework has been adapted to be developmentally relevant from early childhood through adolescence.

**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.

**Foster Care Facility:** Any foster family home as defined in section 71-1901, residential child caring agency as defined in section 71-1926, public agency, private agency, or any other person or entity receiving and caring for foster children. (*Source: NRS § 43-1301(3)*)

**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 Placements:**

- (a) all types of placements of juveniles described in sections 43-245 and 43-247;
- (b) all types of placements of neglected, dependent, or delinquent children, including those made by the Department of Health and Human Services, by the court, by parents, or by third parties;
- (c) all types of placements of children who have been voluntarily relinquished pursuant to section 43-106.01 to the department or any child-placing agency as defined in section 71-1926 licensed by the Department (of Health and Human Services); and
- (d) all types of placements that are considered to be a trial home visit, including those made directly by the Department (of Health and Human Services) or Office (of Juvenile Services).  
(Source: NRS § 43-1301(4))

**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.

**Foster Family Home:** A home which provides foster care to a child or children pursuant to a foster care placement as defined in section 43-1301. Foster family homes include licensed homes where the primary caretaker has no significant prior relationship with the child or children in his or her care and both licensed and unlicensed relative and kinship homes.  
(Source: NRS § 71-1901(6))

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

Sub-definitions:

Relative Foster Home: A home where a child or children receive foster care and at least one of the primary caretakers is related to the child or children, or to a sibling of such child or children in his or her care by blood, marriage or adoption. Relative homes are not required to be licensed and may be approved by DHHS.

Kinship Foster Home: A home where a child or children receive foster care and at least one of the primary caretakers has previously lived with or is a trusted adult that has a pre-existing, significant relationship with the child or children or is a sibling of such child or children. Kinship homes are not required to be licensed and may be approved by DHHS.

Licensed Foster Home: A home where a child or children receive foster care that has met requirements found at 395 NAC Chapter 3. Requirements include foster parent pre-service and ongoing training, passing of background checks, ratios of children cared for, positive references and environmental requirements.



Licensed Relative Foster Home: A home where a child or children receive foster care and at least one of the primary caretakers is related to the child or children, or to a sibling of such a child or children in his or her care by blood, marriage or adoption, and the relative foster home has met licensing requirements as outlined in 395 NAC Chapter 3. Some licensing requirements can be waived in order to license relatives, including maximum number of persons cared for, training and references.

Kinship Licensed Foster Home: A home where a child or children receive foster care and at least one of the primary caretakers is related to the child or children, or to a sibling of such child or children in his or her care by blood, marriage or adoption. Kinship homes are not required to be licensed and may be approved by DHHS.

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

**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.

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

**Functional Family Therapy**: Short-term, phased, family prevention and intervention program targeting at-risk children and adolescents aged 10 to 18 whose problems range from conduct disorders to alcohol and/or substance abuse. Focusing on the risk and protective factors that impact the adolescent and his or her environment by emphasizing engagement and motivation, behavior change, and generalization (to extend the improvements made during behavior change into multiple areas and to plan for future challenges) to reduce defensive

communication patterns, increase supportive interactions and promote supervision and effective discipline.

**Funneling:** A line of questioning where the interviewer starts with broader, open-ended, questions and moves to focused questions.

**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-

**Gang:** Programs aimed at reducing the number of serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders from gang related activities.

**Gender:** The identity of the youth as either female, male, or unspecified.

**Gender-based:** A concentrated effort to provide gender focused programming designed to assist youth with gender identity.

**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.

**Goals** See Also: **Outcomes**

**Grade Point Average (GPA):** The average number of academic credits earned by the youth as calculated by dividing the total number of credits earned by the total of credits attempted.

**Graduated:** Youth no longer participates in the program nor receives services relevant to the program due to their successful completion of the required program components.

**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.

**Grant County:** The originating county associated with the grant authorization for program funding.

**Grant Number:** The series of numbers and/or letters identifying the authorized grant associated with the program.

**Grant Writer:** An identified personnel that develops funding sources to support existing and planned programs. The individual coordinates the development, writing, and submission of grant proposals.

**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.

**Group by Therapist:** A counseling program component where the youth engages in treatment via a group setting facilitated by an adult certified in that treatment method.

**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.

**Group Homes:** Community-based, long-term facility in which youth are allowed extensive contact with the community, such as attending school or holding a job.

**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.

**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.

**Guardianship See Also: Legal Guardianship:** The court has appointed an individual to become a child's guardian. Guardianship is one of the permanency objectives available to children if reunification or adoption cannot occur.

**Guardianship Assistance (Also known as Subsidized Guardianship) See Also:** Subsidized Guardianship , Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program. The subsidized guardianship program is designed to ensure that financial barriers or costs associated with a child's special needs don't prevent the appointment of a guardian for a child. It is only available to wards of the Department. Guardianship Assistance can be federally funded if the guardian is a relative to the child or can be state funded.

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**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.

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

**Hearings:** The judicial court proceeding to review the offense and status of the youth in an effort for the judge to make a formal decision. There are several types of hearings dependent on the stage of the youth's case in the formal decision making process (i.e. adjudication

hearing, disposition hearing, detention hearing, drug court hearing). Generally, a judicial examination of the issues of law and fact between parties.

**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.

**Hematoma:** Accumulation of blood in an organ or tissue due to a break in a wall of a blood vessel.

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

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

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

**High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW):** High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) is a youth-guided and family-driven planning process that follows a series of steps to help youth and their families realize their hopes and dreams. It is a process that allows more youth to grow up in their homes and communities. It is a planning process that brings people together (natural supports and providers) from various parts of the youth and family's life. The HFW workforce ([HFW Facilitator](#), and if desired, a [HFW Family Support Partner](#) and [HFW Youth Support Partner](#)), helps the youth and family achieve the goals that they have identified and prioritized, with assistance from their natural supports and system providers. This is the HFW team. High Fidelity Wraparound is driven by the same [HFW Principles](#), and follows the same [HFW Phases](#) and basic [HFW activities](#).<sup>3</sup>

**High-Risk Environment:** The youth's living situation or surroundings exposes them to identifiable danger.

**Historical Trauma:** multigenerational trauma experienced by a specific cultural group. Historical trauma is cumulative and collective. As a collective phenomenon, those who never even experienced the traumatic stressor, such as children and descendants, can still exhibit signs and symptoms of trauma. Historical trauma can be experienced by "anyone living in families at one time marked by severe levels of trauma, poverty, dislocation, war, etc., and who are still suffering as a result" (Martin Michael Cutler, 2006) "The impact of this type of trauma manifests itself, emotionally and psychologically, in members of different cultural groups." (Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart PhD, 2011)

**History (Drug Court):** The youth's prior experience with substance use and prior offending behaviors.

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<sup>3</sup> Accessed from the Youth and Family Training website on 6/4/14: <http://antrios.wpic.pitt.edu/pages/definition>

**History of Aggressive Behavior:** The youth's actions or behaviors are reported to be hostile or violent toward others or things.

**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.

**Home Confinement:** An ATD program that restricts a youth's freedom through verbal contract that requires them to remain at home during specified times. The juvenile's activities are monitored through frequent communication between parents and the program to ensure compliance.

**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.

**Homeless Student:**

- (1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
- (2) An individual or family who with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport or campground;
- (3) An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by federal, state or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing);
- (4) An individual who resided in a shelter or a place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;
- (5) An individual or family who:
  - (A) will imminently lose their housing, including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, as evidenced by:
    - (i) A court order resulting from an eviction action that notifies the individual or family that they must leave within 14 days;
    - (ii) The individual or the family having a primary nighttime residence that is a room in a hotel or motel and where they lack the resources necessary to reside there for more than 14 days; or
    - (iii) Credible evidence indicating the owner or renter of the housing will not allow the individual or family to stay for more than 14 days, and any oral statement from an individual or family seeking homeless assistance that is found to be credible shall be considered credible evidence for purposes of this clause;

- (B) Has no subsequent residence identified; and
  - (C) Lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain permanent housing; and
- (6) Unaccompanied youth and homeless families with children and youth defined as homeless under other federal statutes who:
- (A) Have experienced a long term period without living independently in permanent housing;
  - (B) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by frequent moves over such period; and
  - (C) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse, the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or multiple barriers to employment. (*Source: 42 U.S.C. § 11302*)

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

**Hours Attended:** Number of hours (60-minute intervals) the youth was in the program.

**Hours Completed:** Number of hours (60-minute intervals) the youth was physically in attendance of the instructional/educational class.

**Hours of Contact-Email:** The number of hours (60-minute intervals) program staff communicated with the youth via electronic postbox for sending and receiving messages through the internet. The hours of contact via email may be noted in decimals to indicate the duration of the email messaging conversation.

**Hours of Contact-Face-to-Face:** The number of hours (60-minute intervals) program staff communicated with the youth via in-person meetings wherein both the youth and the program staff(s) were physically present and can be seen. The hours of contact via face-to-face may be noted in decimals to indicate the duration of the conversation.

**Hours of Contact-Phone:** The number of hours (60-minute intervals) program staff communicated with the youth via telephone during the youth's participation in the program. The hours of contact via phone may be noted in decimals to indicate the duration of the phone conversation.

**Hours of Contact-Text:** The number of hours (60-minute intervals) program staff communicated with the youth via text messaging during the youth's participation in the program. The hours of contact via text messaging may be noted in decimals to indicate the duration of the text messaging conversation.

**Hours Required:** Number of hours (60-minute intervals) the youth was permitted to and needed to attend the instructional/educational class.

**Household Violence:** Violence within the household which can include child to child; parent to child; parent to parent or other caretakers or relatives in the home.

**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 percent 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).

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

-I-

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

**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.

**Identifying Information:** Information on birth parents that discloses their identities.

**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.

**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.

**Incentives:** Attempts to meet juvenile conduct with rewards to reinforce and modify behaviors (eg. free sporting event tickets for perfect attendance).

**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.

**Inconclusive UA (Urinalysis) Screen Result:** The results of the urine drug test completed by the youth while participating in the program were unable to be determined.

**Independent Living (IL)** See Also: **Transitional Living Proposal:** 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).

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.

**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.

**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.

**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. (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.5

**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.

**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.



**Indian Tribe** See Also: **Federally Recognized Tribe**

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

**Individual:** A counseling program component wherein the youth is the primary person engaged in treatment with an adult certified to provide individualized treatment.

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

**Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)** See Also: **Early Development Network (EDN).** A written plan for the provision of special education services to children between birth and three years of age. An IFSP deals with a broad range of family needs even though the special education program is responsible for implementing only the educational services and related services. The plan is developed and implemented in accordance with 480 N.A.C. 10-003 and 92 N.A.C. 51-007.

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

**Infant:** A child less than one year of age.

**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.

**Informal Living Arrangement:** The parent has agreed and arranged or helped to arrange a place for their child to reside (without the parent), until child safety can be managed in the parental home or until a longer term placement is secured, based on the needs of the child.

**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.

**Information:** A formal accusation by a government attorney that the defendant committed a misdemeanor.

**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.

**Initial Assessment:** The process the Department utilizes to assess for child safety, risk and to determine if maltreatment occurred.

**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.

**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.

**Initiated by (Mentoring):** The entity or person, to include the mentee or mentor, associated with the reason that resulted in time the mentee spent away from their mentor.

**Injury:** Tissue damage such as welts, bruises, or lacerations that last more than 24 hours, resulting from trauma.

**Institution:** Any public or private facility, not owned or operated by a public school district, that provides a residential program and regular or special education services with a special education rate approved by the Department (of Education). (*Source: 92 NAC 18-002.13*)

**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:** Section of information pertaining to aspects of the youth's referral and/or enrollment in the program. The stage of the CPS case process where the CPS caseworker screens and accepts reports of child maltreatment.

**Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS):** Family-focused, community-based crisis intervention services designed to maintain children safely in their homes and prevent the unnecessary separation of families. IFPS are characterized by small caseloads for workers, short duration of services, 24-hour availability of staff, and the provision of services primarily in the family's home or in another environment familiar to the family. 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). An identified safety and in-home service where the contractor agrees to provide intensive family preservation services that are accessible to the family.

**Interim-Program School:** Those schools located in or operated by county detention homes, institutions, or juvenile emergency shelters. (*Source: 92 NAC 18-002.15*)

**Intervention Attempted:** The type of method or technique used to identify the problem and address the problem.

**Interventionist:** An individual responsible for identifying and coordinating a behavioral or academic intervention for a student. The intervention process includes clearly identifying the problem, selecting a strategy to address the problem, and measuring the effectiveness of the strategy.

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

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

**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.

**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.

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

-J-

**Job-related:** A skill-building component providing specific job instruction, activities, and/or situational opportunities that foster the youth’s ability to be employed.

**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.

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

**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.

**Jurisprudence:** The study of law and the structure of the legal system.

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

**Juvenile:** for the purposes of the *Nebraska Juvenile Code*, means any person under the age of eighteen. (Source: NRS § 43-245(11))

**Juvenile Code:** The compilation of Nebraska statutes that 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 Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Coordinator:** Cultivate the understanding and application of detention alternatives among participating agencies and individuals. Collect, prepare, analyze, and present extensive data regarding juvenile justice processes and the population of youth in the juvenile justice system over time, including those referred to secure detention, staff secure detention, and those placed in alternatives to detention.

**Juvenile Detention Facility:** An institution operated by a political subdivision or political subdivisions for the secure detention and treatment of persons younger than 18 years of age, including persons under the jurisdiction of juvenile court, who are serving a sentence pursuant to a conviction to a conviction in a county or district court or who are detained while waiting disposition of charges against them. Juvenile detention facility does not include any institution operated by the Department of Correctional Services. See also, *County Detention Home*. (Sources: NRS § 83-4,125(2); and NRS § 43-245(13))

**Juvenile Emergency Shelter:** A facility which provides temporary twenty-four hour physical care and supervision in crisis situations and at times when an appropriate foster care resource is not available to persons 18 years of age and younger for which a municipal corporation has contracted pursuant to section 13-317 and which shelter also provides regular or special

education services with a special education rate approved by the Department (of Education).  
(Source: 92 NAC 18-002.16)

**Juvenile Facility:** A residential child-caring agency as defined in section 71-1926, a juvenile detention facility or staff secure juvenile facility as defined in this section, a facility operated by the Department of Correctional Services that houses youth under the age of majority, or a youth rehabilitation and treatment center. (Source: NRS § 83-4,125(3))

**Juvenile Justice Based Mentoring:** is a mentoring model where youth with some involvement in the juvenile justice system (ranging from diversion to YRTC) are matched with an adult who will demonstrate pro-social attitudes and behaviors while helping the youth navigate the juvenile justice system. The goal of this mentoring model is to prevent the youth from further involvement with the justice system.

**Juvenile Needs:** Meeting the juvenile's biological/physiological and safety needs through support, treatment, and supervision focused on reducing the risk of re-offending by the youth and on assisting the parents to properly fulfill their role of parenting their youth based on a youth's and family's needs and strengths.

**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 43-245.2

**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 that 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.

**Juveniles Stopped by Law Enforcement and Cited (Program Level Survey):** Number of youth that had law enforcement contact due to engaging in law violating behavior and received a citation or referral (i.e. diversion, detention intake) that is not considered a minor traffic offense.

-K-

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

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

**Kinship Adoption** See Also: **Relative Adoption:** Adoption of a child by someone related by family ties or a prior relationship.

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

**Kinship Home:** A home where a child or children receive foster care and at least one of the primary caretakers has previously lived with or is a trusted adult that has a pre-existing, significant relationship with the child or children or is a sibling of such child or children pursuant to section 43-1311.02.2

-L-

**Last Name:** The youth's legal surname.

**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.

**Law Enforcement Agency:** The type and location (e.g. Sheriff Department, county) of the authority responsible for enforcement of the laws that responded to the dispatched call for service resulting in crisis response.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Least Restrictive:** A term that refers to placement of a child in a setting that is most comparable to his/her home.

**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.

**Legal Father:** A person whom is established as the father by marriage, adoption, written paternity acknowledgement, or as determined by a court with jurisdictional basis.

**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.

**Legal Guardianship** See Also: **Guardianship:** Considered as a permanency objective when: a) all efforts to reunify the family have been exhausted, b) the child cannot return home, and either c) all reasonable efforts to secure adoption of the child have been unsuccessful, or d) it is determined that adoption is not in the best interest of the child. (390 N.A.C. 6-001.01) Legal guardianship a more appropriate permanency alternative for many tribes than termination of parental rights.

**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.

**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.

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

**Length of Contact:** The hours spent (60 minute intervals) where staff or a mentor communicated with the mentee.

**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.

**Life skills:** Education to enhance independence and the performance of daily activities by focusing primarily on the skills needed to ensure the youth's biological, physiological, and safety needs.

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

**Local Education Agency (LEA): (Federal law),** means a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a state for either administrative control and direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a state, or for a combination of school districts or counties that is recognized in a State as an administrative agency for its public elementary or secondary schools. *(Source: 34 C.F.R. § 303.23)*

**(State law),** means a public school district or *Educational Service Unit*. *(Source: NRS § 79-1201)*

**Location (Crisis Response):** The type of place where the crisis response was conducted.

**Location (Drug Court):** The courtroom and judge where the drug court hearing was held.

**Locus of Accountability:** Locus of accountability refers to the continual assessment of practice, organizational, and financial outcomes to determine the effectiveness of system of care in meeting the needs of children and families. Two essential components of an effective accountability strategy in a system of care are:

The development of an interagency management information system that tracks important indicators of service and system performance, and a strong evaluation strategy.

**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)

**Longest Sobriety:** The integer number of days the youth has ceased substance use for a duration of time noted to be the most the youth has ever refrained from substance use.

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

#### **-M-**

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

**Maintained Prior Employment:** Youth maintained their position of employment during participation in the program. Their position was obtained prior to the program.

**Maltreatment See Also: Child/Youth Maltreatment , Child Abuse and Neglect (CA/N):** Parenting behavior that is harmful or destructive to a child's (age birth through age 17) cognitive, social, emotional, and/ or physical development.

**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. 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.

**Mediation:** A form of conflict resolution in which trained student leaders help their peers work together to resolve everyday disputes. Student mediators do not make judgements or offer advice, and they have no power to force decisions upon their peers. An intervention technique used in disputes between parties to help them reconcile differences, find compromises, or reach mutually satisfactory agreements. 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)

**Mediation (Restorative Program Component):** The use of a mediator to assist the offender and victim and/or community identify the harm due to the offending behavior and determine methods of resolution.

**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 Managed Care (MMC):** Medicaid Managed Care is the way some clients receive their Medicaid benefits. Managed Care is a service delivery system where Nebraska Medicaid contracts with a Managed Care Organization (MCO) to operate a health plan that authorizes, arranges, provides and pays for the delivery of services to enrolled clients. Nebraska utilizes Managed Care to provide physical and behavioral (mental health and substance use disorder) health services and is working to implement a program to provide Managed Long-Term Services and Supports.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Mental Health:** Programs utilizing screening, diagnosis, and treatment to promote the youth's recognition of their abilities and coping skills to assist with promoting mental health well-being.

**Mental Health Facility:** For the purposes of the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act, means a treatment facility as defined in section 71-914 or a government, private, or State hospital which treats mental illness. See also, Treatment Facility. (Sources: NRS § 71-914; and NRS § 43-245(16))

**Mental Health Promotion:** Mental health promotion is any action taken to maximize mental health and well-being among populations and individuals to enhance the capacity of individuals, families, groups, or communities to strengthen or support positive emotional, cognitive, and related experiences across the lifespan.

**Mentally Ill and Dangerous (Juvenile):** For the purposes of the *Nebraska Juvenile Code*, means a person who is mentally ill and dangerous. (Source: NRS § 43-247(3)(c))

**Mentally Ill and Dangerous Person:** Under section 71-908, means a person who is mentally ill or substance dependent and because of such mental illness or substance dependence presents:

(1) A substantial risk of serious harm to another person or persons within the near future as manifested by evidence of violent acts or threats of violence or by placing others in reasonable fear of such harm; or

(2) A substantial risk of serious harm to himself or herself within the near future as manifested by evidence of recent attempts at, or threats of, suicide or serious bodily harm or evidence of inability to provide for his or her basic human needs, including food, clothing, shelter, essential medical care, or personal safety. (Source: NRS § 71-908)

**Mentee:** The young person matched to a mentor due to an identified need for support benefiting their development.

**Mentor:** The more experienced person acting in a non-professional helping capacity to provide support to a mentee.

**Mentor Age:** The number associated with the years the mentor was living.

**Mentor Education Level:** The highest level of schooling the mentor completed at the time of the specified reporting period.

**Mentor Gender:** The identity of the mentor as either female, male, or unspecified.

**Mentoring:** Mentoring takes place between young persons (i.e., mentees) and more experienced persons (i.e., mentors) who are acting in a non-professional helping capacity to provide support that benefits one or more areas of the mentee's development. This is a program type and component of a counseling program.

**Mentor Name:** Full legal name of the mentor.

**Mentor Occupation:** The type of profession or job the mentor during the mentoring relationship.

**Mentor Race:** The categorized biological or sociological features, including physical characteristics or cultural factors, used as an identifier of the mentor.

**Mentor Zip Code:** The five- or nine-digit number included in the postal address that assists with delivery of mail and is associated with the mentor's primary residence.

**Mexican National Minors:** Any unmarried person who is under the age of eighteen and was born in Mexico.

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

**Middle Name:** The youth's legal name that is not the first name nor the last name but is placed between the two.

**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.

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

**Misses School:** The level of frequency the youth does not attend school or the academic setting they are enrolled to attend.

**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.

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

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

**Monitor:** An electronic device using a global positioning system, non-digital landline home-based system, or phone application that provides intensive supervision by monitoring the location of a youth that is reviewed by program personnel.

**Monitor Activity:** The particular kind of action associated with the use of an electronic monitoring device for intensive supervision of the youth.

**Motivation of Mentor:** The reason given by the mentor to engage in a relationship with the mentee.

**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.

**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.

**Multi-systemic Therapy (MST):** Intensive family-and community-based treatment program that focuses on the chronic and violent juvenile offenders, their homes and families, schools and teachers, neighborhoods and friends using 24/7 on call service access to empower parents/caregivers to keep the juvenile focused on school, job skill accretion, and engagement in positive recreational activities.

**Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) See Also: Interdisciplinary Team , 1184 Team:** A general term for a group of professionals, and possibly paraprofessionals, representing a variety of disciplines (e.g., law enforcement, social workers, psychologists, and the community). They interact and coordinate their efforts to diagnose and treat specific cases of child abuse and neglect and may also address the general problem of child maltreatment in a community. This term is also used more specifically in Special Education to refer to the team that evaluates children who may have disabilities.

**Multiple National Minors/Minors Holding Dual Citizenship:** Any unmarried person who is under the age of eighteen and who holds citizenship simultaneously in the United States and one other country.

**Narrative:** Additional information pertaining to the youth that provides an understanding of the youth's offense, substance use, academic performance, reasons, specific incentive, or personal life relevant to their participation in the program.

**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.

**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.

**NE (Nebraska) School ID:** Identification number assigned to the youth by the Nebraska school system.

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

**Nebraska Biological Father Registry** See Also: **Putative Father Registries:** The Registry allows possible biological fathers to provide identifying information about themselves, the mother, and the child, so registered men can be notified about adoption proceedings. The Registry consists of men who voluntarily file the required notice with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, as well as any man -- made known to the Department -- who has been found to be a father by a court of competent jurisdiction.

**Nebraska Department of Health And Human Services (NDHHS Or More Simply DHHS):** The full formal title of the state governmental department that administers social services and health related programs. There are six Divisions within the Department: Behavioral Health; Children and Family Services; Developmental Disabilities; Medicaid and Long-Term Care; Public Health; and Veterans' Homes.

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

**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 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 wellbeing 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.

**Negative UA (Urinalysis) Screen Result:** The urine drug test completed by the youth while participating in the program that indicated the absence of the substance(s) specified by the test.

## **Neglect**

1. Emotional - Information indicates that the child is suffering or has suffered severe negative emotional effects due to a parent's failure to provide opportunities for normal experience which produce feelings of being loved, wanted, secure and worthy. Lack of such opportunities may impair the child's ability to form healthy relationships with others. Examples include emotional deprivation; not providing mental health services for a child when indicated or a child being shunned by peers due poor hygiene.
2. Physical - Information indicates the failure of the parent to provide for the basic needs or provide a safe and sanitary living environment for the child. Examples include, but are not limited to: not providing adequate food or clothing; not following medical recommendations; failure to thrive, lack of supervision which places the child at risk; parent/caretaker knowingly allowing contact between child and any maltreater; parents' failure to protect a child by allowing them to be physically, sexually or emotionally maltreated by another person; driving with children in the car while seriously impaired by alcohol/drugs; engaging in dangerous activities while children are present.
3. 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:

- The infant is chronically and irreversibly comatose;
- The provision of this treatment would merely prolong dying or not be effective in ameliorating or correcting all of the infant's life-threatening conditions;

- The provision of the treatment itself under these conditions would be inhumane.

**Neglect of Self-Care:** The youth refrains from personally addressing their own needs.

**New Law Violation (NLV):** Youth no longer participates in the program nor receives services relevant to the program due to breaching the law or code of behaviors as specified in statute or ordinance that is in addition to the youth's current offenses and resulted in a citation and/or petition filed.

**New Law Violation (NLV) Cut-Off-Monitor:** For programs using electronic monitoring devices, the youth obtained a new law violation or charge directly due to cutting the monitor or tampering with the monitor resulting in unauthorized removal and damage.

**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.

**Noncompliance Program Requirements:** Youth no longer participates in the program nor receives services relevant to the program due to violating norms specific to the program policy, procedures, and components that are expected of the youth for successful completion and not related to FTA, NLV, or Technical Violation.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Non-Identifying Information:** Facts about the birth parents or adoptive parents that would not lead to their discovery by another person.

**Non-Offender:** For the purposes of the *Nebraska Juvenile Code*, means a juvenile who is subject to the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court for reasons other than legally prohibited conduct, including, but not limited to, juveniles described in subdivision (3)(a) of section 43-247. "(3) any juvenile (a) who is homeless or destitute, or without proper support through no fault of his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; who is abandoned by his or parent, guardian, or custodian;

who lacks proper parental care by reason of the fault or habits of his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; whose parent, guardian, or custodian neglects or refuses to provide proper or necessary subsistence, education, or other care necessary for the health, morals, or well-being of such juvenile; whose parent, guardian, or custodian is unable to provide or neglects or refuses to provide special care made necessary by the mental condition of the juvenile; who is in a situation or engages in an occupation, including prostitution, dangerous to life or limb or injurious to the health or morals of such juvenile; or who, beginning July 1, 2017, has committed an act or engaged in behavior described in subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of this section and who was under eleven years of age at the time of such act or behavior. *“(Source: NRS § 43-247(3)(a))”*

**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.

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

**No Show UA (Urinalysis) Screen Result:** The youth did not present themselves for the scheduled urine drug test while participating in the program.

**No Wrong Door Access:** Families and youth will be directed to the appropriate service from whichever provider (healthcare, behavioral health, social service) they initially access.

**Not Excused:** An unauthorized absence from the youth’s school or academic setting in which they are enrolled to attend.

**Notes:** Additional information pertaining to the youth that provides an understanding of the youth’s offense, substance use, academic performance, reasons, specific incentive, or personal life relevant to their participation in the program.

**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.

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.

**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)

**Number of Cases Referred to Juvenile Court (Program Level Survey):** The number of youth with a petition filed in juvenile court.

**# (Number) of School Days Missed:** The integer number of days the youth was absent from their primary school. Absence is defined by the school district.

-O-

**Obtained Employment:** Youth obtained employment during participation.

**Obtained GED/Diploma:** Youth earned their GED or Diploma during participation in the program.

**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.

**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).

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Oral Argument:** An opportunity for lawyers to summarize their position before the court and also to answer the judge's questions.

**Original Birth Certificate:** The birth certificate issued at the birth of a child. Statements that identify specifically what is to be produced by each Family/Person Centered Plan. The intended results of a behavioral change process.

**Otherwise be Detained:** Indicates the youth would have been detained had they not been placed with the program based on a corresponding detention intake completed by probation, which typically results in a risk assessment score.

**Outcome:** The result of the program service, contact, or intervention.

**Out-of-Home Care:** The provision of room and board and the exercise of concern and responsibility for the safety and welfare of children on a twenty-four-hour-per-day basis in settings that serve as the out-of-home placement for children. *(Source: NRS § 71-1926(1))*

**Out of Range Violation:** A youth on an electronic monitor left the authorized area(s) resulting in an inability of program staff to supervise the location of the youth.

-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.

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

**Parent:** A biological, legal, or adoptive mother or father. If the child is Native American, parent refers to any biological Native American or non-Native American parent of a Native American child or any Native American person who has lawfully adopted a child, including adoptions under tribal law or custom. It does not include the unwed father where paternity has not been acknowledged or established under state or tribal law.

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.

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.

For the purposes of the *Nebraska Juvenile Code*, means one or both parents or stepparents when the stepparent is married to a parent who has physical custody of the juvenile as of the filing of the petition. (Source: NRS § 43-245(18))

**Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT):** A treatment program for young children with conduct disorders that places emphasis on improving the quality of the parent-child relationship and changing parent-child interaction patterns. PCIT was developed for children ages 2-7 years with externalizing behavior disorders. In PCIT, parents are taught specific skills

**Parent Contact Efforts:** Pertaining to an uninvolved parent, the efforts for engaging the parent such as number of phone calls or home visits.

**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.

**Parent Participation Description:** The narrative of parent engagement in the program during the youth's participation in the program such as parent training groups or regular communication via phone or meetings.

**Parent Participation While Enrolled:** Level of parent engagement in program components during youth's participation such as parent training group or communication with staff.

**Parental Involvement:** Level of parent engagement in program components during youth's participation such as parent training group or communication with staff.

**Parental Rights:** The legal rights and corresponding legal obligations that go along with being the parent of a child.

**Parenting:** Parents actively acquire parenting skills through services that focus on improving the parenting of and communication with their children by engaging in skill building, problem solving, and modeling types of mechanisms in an effort to reduce adverse childhood outcomes.

**Parenting Time:** The quality and quantity of time a parent spends with their child who is in out of home care. This includes the time siblings spend together, if applicable.

**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 3 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.

**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.

**Peer:** A counseling program component involving a support from another youth for treatment purposes.

**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.

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

**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.

**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.

**Person Referring:** The name and title of the person that directed or requested the youth to have an assessment completed.

**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.

**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. 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.

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

**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.

**Physical Abuse:** The non-accidental infliction of injury or an act that poses substantial likelihood of bodily injury.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

**Placed on GPS Monitor:** Indication that supervision of the youth's location was initiated using a global positioning system device.

**Placed on Radio Frequency Monitor:** Indication that supervision of a youth's location was initiated using a non-digital landline home-based system.

**Placed on Phone App:** Indication that supervision of a youth's location was initiated using a phone application.

**Plaintiff:** The person who files the complaint in a civil lawsuit.

**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.

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

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

**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.

**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.

**Positive UA (Urinalysis) Screen Result:** The urine drug test completed by the youth while participating in the program that indicated the presence of the substance(s) specified by the test.

**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.

**Post-Adjudicated:** Period following a judicial determination (judgement) that a juvenile is responsible for a delinquency or status offense.

**Post-Adoption Services** See Also: **Post-Guardianship Services:** Services provided after an adoptive placement to the adopted person, the adoptive family, and/or the birth parents. 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.

**Post-Guardianship Services** See Also: **Post-Adoption Services**

**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.

**Postnatal:** Occurring after birth, with reference to a newborn child.

**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.

**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.

**Potential Mentors:** Mentors the youth communicated with in an effort to engage in a mentoring relationship.

**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.

**Pre-Adjudicated:** The period prior to a judicial determination (judgement) that a juvenile is responsible for the delinquency or status offense that is charged in a petition or other charging document.

**Pre-Adoptive Placement** See Also: **Adoptive Placement , Child Custody Proceeding (ICWA Specific Language)** For Indian children, See CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING.

**Pre-Disposition:** The period after adjudication and prior to a sanction ordered or treatment plan decided upon or initiated in a particular case by a juvenile court.

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

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

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

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

**Preparation for Adult Living Services (PALS):** The PALS program provides preparation, transition, and independent living services to current and former foster youth who are expected to age out of the foster care system and youth emancipated from the foster care system in Nebraska. PALS are contracted services and PALS Specialists are located across the state.<sup>31</sup>

**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.

**Presenting Offense:** Pre-adjudicated offense at time of admission that required the participation in the program or most recent post-adjudicated offense if youth is not pre-adjudication status.

**Presenting Situation:** The type of need and/or risk area requiring immediate response from law enforcement.

**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.

**Prevention:** The active process of creating conditions or attributes that promote the wellbeing of people. Prevention activities avert the onset and reduce the progression of disease (public health) or alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse and/or symptoms of mental illness (behavioral health), and other problems related to these concerns.

For behavioral health:

- A universal prevention intervention targets all people within the general population or a certain subgroup not selected based on individual risk.
- A selective prevention intervention targets individuals or a subgroup whose risk of developing a condition is higher than average.
- An indicated prevention intervention targets individuals who are high risk and present minimal, but detectable, symptoms of a mental, emotional, or behavioral disorder, but they do not yet have a diagnosis.

For public health:

- Primary prevention refers to methods used before a person gets a disease. Primary prevention aims to prevent the disease from occurring.
- Secondary prevention is used after the disease has occurred but before the person notices that anything is wrong.
- Tertiary prevention targets the person who already has symptoms of the disease.



**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.

**Primary Abuse Substance:** The illegal drug or unauthorized prescription drug most frequently abused by the youth.

**Primary Caregiver:** Person in the household who provides the most child care. The primary caregiver is considered to provide at least 51 percent of the care.

**Primary Phone:** The main telephone contact number for the youth (xxx-xxx-xxxx).

**Prior Law Violations:** Notes all violations of statute or ordinance resulting in a petition filed and subsequent adjudication which occurred before participation in the program.

**Prior Legal Violations:** Notes all violations of statute or ordinance resulting in a petition filed and subsequent adjudication that occurred before participation in the program.

**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.

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

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

**Probation:** Cases in which youth are placed on informal/voluntary or formal/court-ordered supervision. 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.

**Problem Identified:** The type of issue addressed as noted through the intervention process.

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

**Professional Resource Family Care (PRFC):** This is a Medicaid residential service for children with a mental health or substance abuse diagnosis (DSM-5). It is a short-term and intensive

supportive resource for the child and family. It is intended to serve as a crisis stabilization option for the family in order to avoid inpatient or institutional treatment. A parent or parent substitute must be willing to participate in a co-parenting approach with ongoing, active participation in the treatment. A permanent family (not a temporary family or group home) must be available for the child after discharge.

**Program Attendance:** Youth physical and/or actively engaged in a component(s) provided by the program.

**Program Objective:** The goal of placing the youth in the program; typically associated with the reason for admission.

**Program Staff Used Power to Detain:** The program staff has the power to detain and utilized this authority to detain the youth upon discharge from the program.

**Program Progress:** Notes the level of improvement and effort relevant program expectations which is assessed at discharge from the program.

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

**Prosocial Activity/Attitudes:** Programs that encourage a youth to behave voluntarily in ways intended to benefit others and fosters this through skills training.

**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) the Department initiating court action.

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

**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.

**Psychosomatic Symptoms:** Physical symptoms that have psychological causes.

**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.

**Putative Father:** 1. Legal term for the alleged or supposed father of a child. 2. A person alleged to be the biological father with no legal establishment of paternity.

**Putative Father Registries** See Also: **Nebraska Biological Father Registry:** Registry system that serves to ensure that a birthfather's rights are protected. Some states require that birthfathers register at these facilities, while other states presume that he does not wish to pursue paternity rights if he doesn't initiate any legal action.

#### -Q-

**Qualified Expert Witness** See Also: **Expert Witness:** For ICWA purposes, a person who is qualified to speak specifically to the issue of whether continued custody by the parents or Indian custodians is likely to result in serious emotional or physical damage to the Indian child. 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."

#### -R-

**Race/Ethnicity:** The categorized biological or sociological features, including physical characteristics or cultural factors, used as an identifier of the youth.

**Real Evidence:** Evidence that is addressed directly to the senses without intervention of testimony. This refers to tangible items.

**Reason (Mentoring):** The issue related to the documented time in days the mentee was not communicating with the mentor.

**Reason for Admission:** The purpose for the youth to participate in the program indicating the reason the youth required the services of the program.

**Reason for Call to LE (Law Enforcement):** The purpose for law enforcement intervention as identified from dispatch to the law enforcement agency.

**Reason for Conference:** The purpose for program staff to engage a mediation process with the youth.

**Reason for Contact:** The purpose for program staff to communicate with or see the youth and/or family.

**Reasonable Efforts:** Supports and services both informal and formal that may allow the child to remain in his/her home safely. For Indian children, the standard is active efforts.

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

**Recapitulation:** The process of reviewing and summarizing discussed topics.

**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. 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.

**Record:** A written account of all the acts and proceedings in a lawsuit.

**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.

**Reentry:** A process that intentionally prepares youth and families for return from an out of home placement back to their communities. Activities and communications prior to discharge strengthen the connection between the youth in placement with their family, home, and community.

**Referral (Crisis Response):** The goal of crisis response was to refer the youth to other needed services or level of care. In Child Welfare work, often the same thing as a report.

**Referral Agency:** The entity name and location the youth was recommended to in an effort to address needs identified from the crisis response process.

**Referral Date:** The two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year of the received request to review the youth's case for consideration into the program.

**Referral Location:** The service or program recommended for the youth based on the assessment process.

**Referral Name:** The name and title of the person that directed or requested the youth to the program for participation.

**Referral Source:** The agency, organization, or entity that directed or requested the youth to the program for participation.

**Referral Type:** The category of services recommended to the youth and/or family as a result of the crisis response process.

**Referred Participation:** The number of days for attendance as required by the referral source prior to participation in the program, this is not the days of attendance.

**Referred To:** The service or program recommended for the youth based on the assessment process.

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

**Refused services:** Indication that the youth actively stated or showed they would not participate in all or part of the program.

**Refused Service Reason:** The level of disengagement by the youth pertaining to participation in the program.

**Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (Regions):** *Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (Regions) are responsible for the development and coordination of publicly funded behavioral health services within their respective geographic region and manage a network of providers for an array of behavioral health services. The Regions* contract with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health for federal and state mental health and substance abuse funds. Counties provide local matching funds for the operation of the Regions and for the provision of behavioral health services within their region. The following are the official titles of the six Regions.

- Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority
- Region II Human Services
- Region 3 Behavioral Health Services
- Region 4 Behavioral Health System
- Region V Systems
- Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare

**Registration (ICWA Specific Language) See Also:** Enrollment (ICWA Specific

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

**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.

For the purposes of the *Nebraska Juvenile Code*, and except in proceedings under the *Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act*, means father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, or niece. (Source: NRS § 43-245(21))

**Relative Adoption See Also:** Kinship Adoption

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

**Release:** Youth no longer is under the care, supervision, and/or services of the program or detention for more than 24 hours.

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

**Remand:** An appellate court sending a case back to a lower court for further proceedings.

**Removed from Monitor:** A youth on an electronic monitoring device was no longer required to have their location supervised resulting in the deactivation of the device.

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

**Reporting Center:** An intensive supervision program held at a physical location for youth who would normally be held in secure pretrial custody. The center may provide various types of programming but not treatment services. The goal is to ensure that youth return to court for their scheduled court date with no new law violations. 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.

**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.

**Required Attendance:** The number of days the school or academic institution is operating for the youth to attend classes.

**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.

**Residence:** The primary place the youth lives.

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

**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 Assistance:** The youth and/or family require the need for services to address immediate needs.

**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:** Respite care for children provides relief for parents and other caregivers through a temporary absence of the child from their family.

**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.

**Respite Services:** An identified safety and in-home service where the contractor will provide respite services to be provided both in the family home and outside the family home based on the specific needs of the family.

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

**Restitution:** Offenders provide financial compensation to the victim or community in an effort to repair the harm done by their offending behavior.

**Restorative Justice:** Justice defined by repairing the harm done by the offender using cooperative processes and including all stakeholders. Victims are able to have input into an offender's sentence. Includes victim impact statements, defining the restitution owed, or other forms of affecting resolution of a juvenile justice case.

**Restorative Program Components:** Aspects of the program designed to repair the harm done by the offender as related to restorative justice.

**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.

**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. 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.

**Reunion:** A meeting between birth relatives and an adopted person.

**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.

**Review Hearing:** Held by the juvenile or family court to review case progress (usually every six 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 six months by either a court or by administrative review.

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

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

**Risk:** The probability (likelihood, chance, potential, prospect) that any harm will occur in the next year to two years.

**Risk Assessment:** An objective appraisal of the likelihood that children in a household will experience abuse or neglect in the future. The SDM tool 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.

**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.

**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.

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

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

**Runaway:** The youth secretly and abruptly left their residence or designated location without notifying a person of authority nor communicating their whereabouts. There is reasonable evidence to suggest that the child has run away or has been absent from home for at least 12 to 14 hours without parent/caregiver consent, and the parent/caregiver does not know where the child is.

-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.



**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.

**Safety (Crisis Response):** The goal of the crisis response is to make the client safe from continued hurt, loss, trauma, or injury.

**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. 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.

**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.

**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.

**Safety Intervention:** Involvement to mitigate safety threats which utilize family strengths whenever possible through the use of family, kin, neighbors or other individuals in the community as safety resources. It may also include direct services by the case manager and community and agency resources. Action to remove a child from the home may be necessary to ensure child safety through court action, or the family and DHHS agreement to an informal out-of-home placement with relatives.

**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.

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

**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.

**Sanctions:** Methods used to hold youth accountable and protect the community from the youth's delinquency.

**Scapegoat:** A person bearing the blame for others and /or receiving the brunt of punishment.

**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.

**Scholarship:** Providing financial assistance for involvement in prosocial or community engagement activities.

**School Attachment:** The level of investment the youth has or level of value they attribute to their school or academic setting.

**School-Based:** Providing educational support, training, and/or supervision for youth where academic or behavioral problems originated in the school setting.

**School-Based Mentoring:** is a mentoring model where youth meet with their mentor on school premises. The goal of school-based programs is to improve youth attendance, grades, and attitudes towards school so that the youth is more likely to graduate.

**School Excused:** An authorized absence from the youth's school or academic setting in which they are enrolled to attend.

**School Name:** The name of the primary school the youth is enrolled, indicating they are entered as a participant of that school, at the time of their initial involvement in the program.

**School of Origin:** The school in which a child is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care. If a child's foster care placement changes, the school of origin would then be considered the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of the placement change. (*Sources: 20 U.S.C. § 6311(g)(1)(E)(i); and Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, June 23, 2016*)

**School Resource Officers:** A career law enforcement officer, with sworn authority, assigned by the local police department or agency to work in collaboration with school and community-based organizations.

**School Transportation:** For the purposes of *Additional Costs* incurred in providing transportation to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin, refers to the difference between what a *Local Education Agency (LEA)* otherwise would spend to transport a student to his or her assigned school and the cost of transporting a child in foster care to his or her school of origin. (*Source: Non-Regulatory Guidance: Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, June 23, 2016*)

**School Type:** The type of academic instructional setting the youth attended while participating in the program.

**Scores:** The results of an assessment instrument that was administered to the youth most recently and relevant to the program.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Secretary (ICWA Specific Language):** For purposes of the Indian Child Welfare Acts, the Secretary of the Interior.

**Secure Detention:** An institution operated by a political subdivision or political subdivisions for the secure detention and treatment of persons younger than eighteen years of age, including persons under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court, who are serving a sentence pursuant to a conviction in a county or district court or who are detained while waiting disposition of charges against them. Juvenile detention facility does not include any institution operated by the department.

**Self-Care (Crisis Response):** Techniques/methods attributed to the youth's abilities that aid the youth in addressing their personal needs in an effort to minimize levels of distress.

**Self-Reported Race/Ethnicity:** The category identified by the youth that relays their recognized biological or sociological features, including physical characteristics or cultural factors.

**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.

**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.

**Sentence:** The punishment ordered by a court for a defendant convicted of a crime.

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

**Serious Bodily Injury:** Shall mean:

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

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

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

**Service of Process:** The delivery of writs, petitions, or summonses to the appropriate party.

**Services:** Additional methods or programs provided to the youth in an effort to improve outcomes. 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.

**Setting:** The location where contact with the youth took place.

**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.

**Sex Trafficking:** Sex trafficking of a minor means knowingly recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining by any means or knowingly attempting to recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain by any means a minor for the purpose of having such minor engage in commercial sexual activity, sexually explicit performance, or the production of pornography or to cause or attempt to cause a minor to engage in commercial sexual activity, sexually explicit performance, or the production of pornography.

**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. *(For more detail, see N-DHHS Protection and Safety Procedure Update #21-2015)*

**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.

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

**Shelter Care**: A nonsecure residential care program for youth in need of short-term placement. The youth in the program require more supervision than allowed at the community-based level. The youth participate in a daily schedule.

**Shelter Type**: The services offered by the program that indicates the aspect and intensity of program participation.

**Short-Term Basic Shelter**: A nonsecure residential care program for youth provided for a limited period of time. The program may provide for the youth's medical and educational needs but refrain from providing intensive services such as mental health or family treatment.

**Short-Term Crisis**: A counseling program component wherein the youth's reaction to a situation or event is determined to require immediate support to assist the youth with coping. The support is provided on a temporary basis.

**Sibling: (Federal law)**, means an individual that satisfies at least one of the following conditions with respect to the child:

(A) The individual is considered by state law to be a sibling of the child.

(B) The individual would have been considered a sibling of the child under state law but for a termination or other disruption of parental rights, such as the death of a parent. (*Source: 42 U.S.C. § 675(12)*)

**(State law)**, means biological siblings and legal siblings, including, but not limited to, half-siblings and stepsiblings. (*Source: NRS § 43-1301(10)*)

**Siblings**: Biological and legal siblings including, but not limited to, half-siblings and step-siblings.

**Sidebar**: A conference between the judge and lawyers held out of earshot of the jury and spectators.

**Single Service Plan**: The practice by which a service plan is developed through a multi-partner process of all participating agencies providing behavioral services to the child or youth.

**Skill-Building Program Components:** Youth participated in activities or aspects of the program that encouraged acquisition of or improvement in their cognitive, technical, or interpersonal abilities and capacity.

**Skills Training (Crisis Response):** Crisis response personnel educated/instructed the youth in an area that would improve their cognitive, technical, and/or interpersonal abilities and capacity in an effort to minimize levels of distress.

**SOC Leadership Team:** A leadership team with equal representation of youth, family, and system partners charged with pursuing dissemination and implementation of the Nebraska SOC strategic plan.

**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.

**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.

**Social Skills:** A skill-building program component providing opportunities that promote interpersonal and communication skills for social competence.

**Social Support (Crisis Response):** Entities in the community or extended family were used or identified to assist with minimizing the youth's level of distress.

**Social Worker:** Assists a youth with increasing their capacity for problem solving and coping, and help them obtain needed resources as well as facilitate interactions between individuals and their environment. They seek to improve the youth's quality of well-being through research directed therapeutic methods.

**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.

**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.

**Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS):** An immigrant classification that makes a juvenile eligible to later apply for permanent resident status or a "green card."

**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."

**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.

**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.

**Stabilization (Crisis Response):** The goal is to make the youth more stable in their current situation.

**Staff Secure Juvenile Facility:** A juvenile residential facility operated by a political subdivision

(a) that does not include construction designed to physically restrict the movements and activities of juveniles who are in custody in the facility;

(b) in which physical restriction of movement or activity of juveniles is provided solely through staff;

(c) that may establish reasonable rules restricting ingress to and egress from the facility; and

(d) in which the movements and activities of individual juvenile residents may, for treatment purposes, be restricted or subject to control through the use of intensive staff supervision.

Staff secure juvenile facility does not include any institution operated by the Department of Correctional Services. (*Sources: NRS § 83-4125(5); and NRS § 43-245(24)*)

**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.

**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.

**State Education Agency (SEA):** The State board of education or other agency or officer primarily responsible for the State supervision of public elementary schools and secondary schools, or, if there is no such officer or agency, an officer or agency designated by the governor or state law. The term includes the agency that receives funds under sections 611 and 619 of the *(Individuals with Disabilities Education) Act (IDEA)* to administer the state's responsibilities under *Part B* of the Act. (Source: 34 CFR § 77.1)

**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.

For the purposes of the *Nebraska Juvenile Code*, means a juvenile who has been charged with or adjudicated for conduct which would not be a crime if committed by an adult, including, but not limited to, juveniles charged under subdivision (3)(b) of section 43-247 and section 53-180.01 and 53-180.02 (as provided below). (Source: NRS § 43-245(25))

Under subdivision (3)(b) of section 43-247, means (3) any juvenile:

(b)(i) who, until July 1, 2017, 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, herself, or others; or who is habitually truant from home or school; or

(b)(ii) who, beginning July 1, 2017, is eleven years of age or older and, 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, herself, or others; or who is habitually truant from home or school. (Source: NRS § 43-247(3)(b))

Under section 53-180.01, means a minor unlawfully obtaining, or attempting to obtain, alcoholic liquor by misrepresentation of age, or by any other method, in any tavern or other place where alcoholic liquor is sold. (Source: NRS § 53-180.01)

Under section 53-180.02, means a minor unlawfully selling, dispensing, consuming, or having in his or her possession or physical control any alcoholic liquor in any tavern or in any other place, including public streets, alleys, roads, or highways, upon property owned by the state of Nebraska or any subdivision thereof, or inside any vehicle while in or on any other place, including, but not limited to, the public streets, alleys, roads, or highways, or upon property owned by the state of Nebraska or any subdivision thereof, having physical control of alcoholic liquor as part of a bona fide religious act, ritual, or ceremony or in his or her permanent place of residence. (Source: NRS § 53-180.02)

**Statute:** A law passed by a legislature. 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.

**Staff-Secure Detention:** Staff-secure juvenile facility means a juvenile residential facility operated by a political subdivision (a) which does not include construction designed to physically restrict the movements and activities of youth who are in custody in the facility, (b) in which physical restriction of movement or activity of youth is provided solely through staff, (c) which may establish reasonable rules restricting ingress to and egress from the facility, and (d) in which the movements and activities of individual juvenile residents may, for treatment purposes, be restricted or subject to control through the use of intensive staff supervision. Staff-secure juvenile facility does not include any institution operated by the department.

**Start date:** The two-digit month, two-digit day, and four-digit year the youth began participating in a specific class held for instructional/educational purposes to a group of youth (Two or more youth).

**Start Time:** The hour, minute, and the period of day the crisis response was actively initiated.

**State:** A government of the people in a defined territory within the United States of America where the youth resides.

**Status:** The youth's school enrollment status at the time of their initial involvement in the program that indicates the type of enrollment in school.

**Status at Intake:** Identifies the youth's involvement with the juvenile justice system at the time of enrollment, indicating where the youth's filed petition is in the court process.

**Status offense:** A law violation committed by a youth under the age of majority that if committed by an adult would not be considered unlawful such as truancy or running away from home.

**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. 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.

**Stress Relief (Crisis Response):** Specific techniques designed to reduce stress were utilized to aid the youth in minimizing levels of distress.

**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.

**Subpoena Duces Tecum:** A judicial order to a witness to produce documents.

**Subsidized Adoption** See Also: Adoption Assistance (also known as Adoption Subsidies) , Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act

**Subsidized Guardianship** See Also: Guardianship Assistance (also known as Subsidized Guardianship)

**Substance Abuse:** Program developed to reduce the risk of developing a substance abuse behavioral health problem, such as underage alcohol use, prescription drug misuse and abuse, and illicit drug use.

**Substance Use Disorders See Also: Addiction:** *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fifth Edition (DSM-5), no longer uses the terms substance abuse and substance dependence, rather it refers to substance use disorders, which are defined as mild, moderate, or severe to indicate the level of severity, which is determined by the number of diagnostic criteria met by an individual. Substance use disorders occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes clinically and functionally significant impairment, such as health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home. According to the DSM-5, a diagnosis of substance use disorder is based on evidence of impaired control, social impairment, risky use, and pharmacological criteria.

**Suicide Threat/Attempt:** The youth displayed potentially injurious behavior with an intent to die as a result of the behavior.

**Summarizing:** An interview technique used to pull together thoughts, feelings, and plans expressed and developed during the interview.

**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.

**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.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Formerly Food Stamps):** The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program helps low-income people buy food. It's not

necessary to be receiving other public assistance in order to be eligible, but people don't receive SNAP benefits automatically — they must apply and be found eligible.

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI):** A federally-funded needs-based disability program for adults and children which provides monthly cash benefits and, in most states, automatic Medicaid eligibility.

**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 in the life of a youth who is living on his/her own in the community.

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

**System of Care (SOC):** System of care includes the following characteristics:

1. Family-driven and youth-guided, with the strengths and needs of the child and family determining the types and mix of services and supports provided.
2. Community-based, with the locus of services as well as system management resting within a supportive, adaptive infrastructure of structures, processes, and relationships at the community level.
3. Culturally and linguistically competent, with agencies, programs, and services that reflect the cultural, racial, ethnic, and linguistic differences of the populations they serve to facilitate access to and utilization of appropriate services and supports and to eliminate disparities in care.<sup>4</sup>

**Systems:** State agencies included in the SOC are:

- Department of Health and Human Services Divisions: Children and Family Services, Medicaid and Long-Term Care, Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, Public Health;
- Judicial Branch: Juvenile Services Division;
- Department of Education.

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**Technical Violation:** Youth no longer participates in the program nor receives services relevant to the program due to a violation of court orders/probation orders; this would include runaway behaviors and truancy if applicable to court orders and not specific to program requirements.

**Teen Court:** Programs in which youth sentence their peers for minor delinquent and status offenses and other problem behaviors.

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<sup>4</sup> Accessed from the SAMHSA website on 6/4/14: <http://www.samhsa.gov/children/core-values.asp>

**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.

**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.

**Termination Of Parental Rights (TPR)** See Also: Child Custody Proceeding (ICWA Specific Language) The legal separation of a child from his/her parents, including the transfer of custodial rights by reassignment of legal custody. This may be accomplished through:

1. Voluntary relinquishment, the surrender of a child by a parent or parents to the Department, a licensed child placement agency or an individual;
2. Judicial determination, the order of a county or juvenile court.

For Indian children, see : CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS

**Test Refused:** The youth refused to complete the assessment instrument administered relevant to the program procedures and/or policy.

**Testimony:** Evidence presented orally by witnesses during trials or before grand juries.

**Theft/Other Property Crime:** A youth's behaviors and or actions that disturb or take the belongings or possessions of another without authorization.

**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.

**Threats or Violence to Others:** The youth verbalized an intent to inflict pain or injury on others or physically harmed the wellbeing of another.

**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.

For the purposes of the federal *Social Security Act*, means payments to cover the cost of (and the cost of providing) food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, a child's personal incidentals, liability insurance with respect to a child, reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation, and reasonable travel for the child to remain in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement. In the case of institutional care, such term shall include the reasonable costs of administration and operation of such institution as are necessarily required to provide the items described in the preceding sentence. Child welfare agencies may claim Federal reimbursement for these costs on behalf of eligible children.  
(Source: 42 U.S.C. § 675(4)(A))

**Title XX:** Refers to a program through the Department of Health and Human Services in which a parent/caregiver can apply and, if found to be eligible, can receive Daycare (childcare) assistance each month.

**Tort:** A civil wrong or breach of a duty to another person, as outlined by law. A very common example of a tort is negligent operation of a motor vehicle that results in property damage and personal injury in an automobile accident.

**Torture:** The infliction of intense pain to punish, coerce, or afford sadistic pleasure.

**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.

**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.

**Transitional Living Program (TLP):** Contracted program that provides direct services for eligible youth who are transiting to independent living.

**Transitional Living Proposal** See Also: **Independent Living (IL):** 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.

**Tracking Services:** A person assigned to work with pre-adjudicated or probation youth to ensure that the youth will comply with attendance, curfew, employment, counseling, and drug/alcohol conditions.

**Training/Quality Improvement:** Planning, development, delivery, and evaluation of activities designed to achieve specific learning objectives, resolve problems, and foster the application of innovative approaches to juvenile delinquency and victimization.

**Translation Services Provided:** The indication of whether the youth and/or family communicate in a language other than the primary language of the program staff that resulted in the need for a translator to communicate between the languages.

**Transportation:** Program staff providing a means of transportation for the youth to arrive and/or leave an identified destination.

**Transported to Employment:** The means of transporting the youth to and from their place of employment.

**Transported to School:** The means of transporting the youth to and from the academic institution they are attending outside of the program.

**Trauma** *results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.* The long-lasting adverse effects on an individual are the result of the individual's experience of the event or circumstance. Trauma is not the event itself, but rather a response to a highly stressful experience in which a person's ability to cope is compromised. It can include:

- The personal experience of interpersonal violence, including sexual abuse, physical abuse, severe neglect, loss, and/or the witnessing of violence, terrorism, urban violence, war/combat, motor vehicles accidents and disasters;
- Events that are shocking, terrifying and/or overwhelming to the individual;
- Feelings of horror, fear, helplessness;
- Occurs when an external threat overwhelms a person's internal and external positive coping resources.

Specific sub-definitions for trauma are:

- PRIMARY TRAUMA is caused by a traumatic event that happens to you—you are directly exposed to the trauma.
- SECONDARY TRAUMA is caused by a secondary exposure to trauma: you are not in the actual danger; you are not at the scene of the traumatic event seeing firsthand the result of the shooting rampage or an accident. Instead, those stories are described to you verbally, in writing or through audio or video recordings.
- VICARIOUS TRAUMA describes the transformation of our view of the world due to the cumulative exposure to traumatic images and stories. This is accompanied by experiences recounted by our clients.
- SECONDARY TRAUMATIC STRESS is the result of bearing witness to a traumatic event (or to a series of events), which can lead to PTSD-like symptoms (hearing a graphic account of abuse, debriefing first responders, etc.)

**Trauma-informed:** A trauma-informed approach to the delivery of behavioral health services includes an understanding of trauma and an awareness of the impact it can have across settings, services, and populations. It involves viewing trauma through an ecological and cultural lens and recognizing that context plays a significant role in how individuals perceive and process traumatic events, whether acute or chronic. It involves four key elements of a trauma-informed approach: (1) realizing the prevalence of trauma; (2) recognizing how trauma affects all individuals involved with the program, organization, or system, including its own workforce; (3) responding by putting this knowledge into practice; and (4) resisting re-traumatization.

*Trauma-informed care (TIC):* TIC is a strengths-based service delivery approach that is grounded in an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma, that emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both providers and survivors, and that creates opportunities for survivors to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment. It is an approach to engage people with histories of trauma that recognizes the presence of trauma symptoms and acknowledges that trauma has played a part in their lives. Being trauma-informed and trauma-capable includes avoiding re-traumatization and understanding and recognizing the triggers of trauma survivors.

*Trauma-specific treatment services:* These services are evidence-based and promising practices that facilitate recovery from trauma. The term “trauma-specific services” refers to prevention, intervention, or treatment services that address traumatic stress as well as any co-occurring disorders (including substance use and mental disorders) that developed during or after trauma.<sup>5</sup>

**Trauma-Informed Care:** An organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. Trauma-Informed Care also emphasizes physical, psychological and emotional safety for both consumers and providers, and helps survivors rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.

**Treatment:** Mental health services provided to youth with the goal of promoting productive coping techniques and cognitive mental functioning through therapeutic options that are client focused.

**Treatment Facility:** For the purposes of the *Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act*, means a facility which is licensed to provide services for persons who are mentally ill or substance dependent or both. See also, ***Mental Health Facility***. (Source: NRS § 71-914)

**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.

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<sup>5</sup> Accessed from the SAMHSA website on 6/4/14:  
[http://beta.samhsa.gov/samhsaNewsletter/trauma\\_tip/key\\_terms.html#.U4-f7Y0U9D8](http://beta.samhsa.gov/samhsaNewsletter/trauma_tip/key_terms.html#.U4-f7Y0U9D8)

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Tribal Ward:** A child who meets the definition of a ward of the tribe under the tribal code. For purposes of placement at the YRTC by a tribal court, the Tribal Ward must be a juvenile less than eighteen (18) years of age at the time of the law violation, he or she must have been adjudicated as a law violator by the Tribal Court before he or she may be legally committed to care and custody of DHHS-OJS and placed at a YRTC, and he or she must be less than nineteen (19) years of age when so placed at a YRTC. Discharge is mandatory when the juvenile reaches nineteen (19) years of age.

**Tribes:**

- Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Santee Sioux Nation
- Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

**Truancy Programs:** Programs aimed at steering youth that had an unauthorized absence in an effort to prevent system involvement.

**Type of Activity:** The method staff used to engage the youth and/or family or the category of service delivery.

**Type of Center:** The services offered by the program that indicates the aspect and typically the time of program participation that includes day, evening, weekend.



**Type of Contact:** The method program staff or mentor used to communicate with or see the youth and/or family.

**Type of Incentive:** The category associated with the method or item provided to the youth as a reward in an effort to reinforce and modify behaviors.

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**UA (Urinalysis) Results related to Discharge:** The reason for the youth to be discharged from participation in the program was directly related to the results of a urinalysis test.

**UA (Urinalysis) Screen:** A drug test analyzing the urine of the youth in order to detect the presence of specific illegal drugs and prescription medications.

**UA (Urinalysis) Screen Results:** The outcome of the drug test that could indicate whether the presence of certain illegal drugs or prescription medications were present in the youth's urine.

**Unable To Locate:** The subjects of the maltreatment report have not been located after a good faith effort on the part of the Department.

**Unfounded:** All reports not classified as court substantiated, court pending, agency substantiated, or unable to locate.

**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.

**Unsafe:** One or more safety threats are present, and out-of-home 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.

**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.

**Uphold:** The decision of an appellate court not to reverse a lower court decision.

**Urgent Placement With Relative or Kin:** A placement exists when a child is residing in a licensed foster home, not previously known to them, and a relative or kinship home has been identified, is available and able, and it is in the child's best interest to be placed there.

**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.

**Verbal Cue:** A nondirective listening technique that encourages a person to continue speaking, for example – “right,” “sure,” “yes.”

**Verdict:** The decision of a petit jury or a judge.

**Violence:** The exertion of physical force so as to injure, abuse, or control.

**Violent Crime:** A child who has witnessed a homicide, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery or an assault which resulted in serious bodily injury or included the use of a weapon or the threat of the use of a weapon. This would include a child who has witnessed domestic violence resulting in serious bodily injury to a household member.

**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.

**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 who does not have sufficient capacity for self-protection.

-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."

**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.

**Withholding of Medically Indicated Treatment:** The failure to respond to the infant’s life threatening conditions by failure to provide treatment (including appropriate nutrition, hydration, and medication) which, in the treating physician’s (or physicians’) reasonable medical judgment, will be most likely to be effective in ameliorating or correcting all such conditions.

**Witness:** A person whose declaration under oath is received as evidence for any purpose.

**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.

**Wraparound Principles:** Wraparound is an intensive, holistic method of engaging with children and youth with complex needs so that they can live in their homes and communities and realize their hopes and dreams. Wraparound has been most commonly conceived of as an *intensive, individualized care planning and management process*. Wraparound is not a treatment *per se*. The wraparound *process* aims to achieve positive outcomes by providing a structured, creative and individualized team planning process that, compared to traditional treatment planning, results in plans that are more effective and more relevant to the child/youth and family. The ten Wraparound Principles include: Family Voice & Choice; Team-Based; Natural Supports; Collaboration; Community-Based; Culturally Competent; Individualized; Strengths-Based; Persistence; and Outcome-Based.

**Writ:** A formal written command, issued from the court, requiring the performance of a specific act.

**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.

-Y-

**Young Adult:** For the purposes of the *Nebraska Juvenile Code*, means an individual older than eighteen years of age but under twenty-one years of age. (*Source: NRS § 43-245(27)*)

**Youth:** A youth is a minor between the ages of 12 to 17 for the purposes of community-based aid funding.

**Youth Absconded:** Youth no longer participates in the program nor receives services relevant to the program due to an unauthorized leave that is a violation of program norms and not considered a technical violation.

**Youth Committed to YRTC (Program Level Survey):** Number of youth from the reporting county committed by juvenile court order to a Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Facility during the prior fiscal year.

**Youth Diverted from your County (Program-Level Survey):** Number of youth with actual enrollment documented in the county's diversion program that can be considered diverted from the juvenile justice system; this does not include warnings.

**Youth Employed:** Youth actively engages in and maintains a job position at a credible place of employment.

**Youth-initiated Mentoring:** is a mentoring model where the youth identifies individuals that he or she already views as a natural support or mentor. A formal program then helps ensure that the match is safe and supportive for the youth. YIM models also help develop natural mentors for more sustainable matches. The goal of youth initiated mentoring is to help youth identify and sustain healthy support systems.

**Youth in a Detention Center (Program-Level Survey):** Number of youth placed in secure detention from the reporting county during the prior fiscal year.

**Youth in Staff Secure (Program-Level Survey):** Number of youth placed in staff secure detention from the reporting county during the prior fiscal year.

**Youth-Guided:** Youth guided means that youth are engaged as equal partners in creating systems change in policies and procedures at the individual, community, state and national levels. Applicants are required to develop plans for infusing a youth-guided approach throughout the system of care, including plans for training and supporting youth in positions of leadership and system transformation.

**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.

**Youth Organization:** Any structured group of children or youth who gather on a regular basis to develop skills, grow peer-to-peer informal support, and complete other service, awareness or voice activities unique to their group. Groups are typically located within communities and/or youth-serving entities and supported by agency staff. For the purpose of this plan, they operate as a loose network by which youth voice is gathered.

**Youth on Probation (Program-Level Survey):** Number of cases in which youth were placed on informal/voluntary or formal/court-ordered supervision during the prior fiscal year.

**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.

**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's Current Living Situation:** Youth's residence associated with the type of legal responsibility for the youth.

## ACRONYMS

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IV-E Title IV-E of the Social Security Act  
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504 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
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A&D WAIVER Aged and Disabled Waiver  
AA Alcoholics Anonymous or Affirmative Action  
AAA Area Agency on Aging  
AABD Assistance to the Aged, Blind and Disabled  
AAP Academic Advancement Plan  
AAP System Academic Advancement Plan System  
ABCF Agency Based Foster Care  
ABFH Agency Based Foster Home  
ABE Adult Basic Education  
ACA American Correctional Association  
ACDI American Chemical Dependency Inventory  
ACF Administration for Children and Families  
ACLD Association for Children with Learning Disabilities

ACLSA Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment  
ACSW Academy of Certified Social Workers  
ACTE Association of Career and Technical Education  
ACTEN Association of Career and Technical Education of Nebraska  
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  
ADR Alternative Dispute Resolution  
AFCARS Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System  
AFS Adolescent and Family Services  
AG Attorney General  
AG ED Agriculture Education  
AHT Abusive Head Trauma  
AIDS Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome  
ALE Alternative Learning Environment  
AMP Amphetamine  
AOM Age of Majority  
AP Class Advanced Placement Class  
APO Assistant Probation Officer  
APPA American Probation and Parole Association  
APPLA Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement  
APS Adult Protective Services  
AR Alternative Response  
ARBD Alcohol-Related Birth Defects  
ARC Association for Retarded Citizens  
ARND Alcohol-Related Neuro Developmental Disorder  
ARSATP Adolescent Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program  
ASAM American Society of Addiction Medicine  
ASD Autism Spectrum Disorder  
ASFA Adoption and Safe Families Act  
ASFC Agency Support Foster Care  
ASI Addiction Severity Index  
ASL American Sign Language  
AYP Adequate Yearly Progress

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B2I Bridge to Independence Program (DHHS)  
BD Behavior Disorder  
BDE Bendex Data Exchange (SSA interface)  
BDS Behavior Data Systems  
BE Business Education  
BFA Behavioral Functional Assessment  
BHEC Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska

BI Behaviorally Impaired  
BIA Bureau of Indian Affairs  
BIP Batterers Intervention Program  
BMM Business and Marketing Management  
BPA Biopsychosocial Assessment  
BSA Boy Scouts of America  
BSDC Beatrice State Development Center  
BT Boys Town  
BTI Boys Town Institute for Child Health Improvement  
BTNRH Boys Town National Research Hospital  
BZO Benzodiazepines

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CA Chronological Age  
CA/N Child Abuse and Neglect  
CAA Community Action Agency  
CAC Child Advocacy Center  
CAFAS Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale  
C&I Curriculum and Instruction  
CAM Continual Alcohol Monitoring  
CA/N Child Abuse and Neglect  
CANCR Child Abuse and Neglect Central Registry  
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  
CBI Community-Based Intervention  
CBR Community-Based Resources  
CC Child Care  
CCA Child Caring Agency  
CCAA Comprehensive Child Adolescent Assessment  
CCC Community Continuum of Care (Lancaster)  
CCDF Child Care and Development Fund  
CCFL Center on Children, Families, and the Law  
CCL Community Corrections Center-Lincoln  
CCO Community Corrections Center-Omaha  
CCPE Coordinating Commission for Post-Secondary Education  
CCS Comprehensive Community Services (Douglas/Sarpy)  
CCSSO Council of Chief States School Officers  
CD Chemical Dependency or Conduct Disorder  
CDC Centers for Disease Control  
  
CDE Chemical Dependency Evaluation  
CDT Competency Development Tool  
CEC Council for Exceptional Children

CEO Chief Executive Officer  
CEU Continuing Education Unit  
CFA Comprehensive Family Assessment  
CFOM Children and Family Outcomes Monitor  
CFS Children and Family Services  
CFSP Child and Family Services Plan  
CFSR Child and Family Services Review  
CFSS Child and Family Services Specialist  
CGS Child Guidance Services  
CH Criminal History  
CHARTS Children Have A Right To Support  
CIP Classification of Instructional Programs  
CIS Career Information Systems  
CJ Criminal Justice  
CJIS Criminal Justice Information Systems  
CJS Criminal Justice System  
CLAS Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services  
CLC Cultural and Linguistic Competence  
CM Case Management  
CMAP Children's Medical Assistance Programs  
CMH Center for Mental Health  
CMI Case Management Inventory  
CMS Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
CO Central Office  
COA Change of Address  
COBRA Consolidated Omnibus Reconciliation Act  
COKE Cocaine  
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  
CP/CR Case Plan and Court Report  
CPS Child Protective Services  
CQI Comprehensive Quality Improvement  
CR Central Register  
CRI Court-Requested Information  
CRP Community Reintegration Planning  
CSA Central Service Area  
CSC Cognitive Self-Change  
CSE Child Support Enforcement  
CSHCN Children with Special Health Care Needs  
CSIM Community Safety Impact Model



CSM Caseload Management  
CST Core Strategy Team  
CTA Community Treatment Aides  
CTE Career and Technical Information  
CW Child Welfare  
CW & JS Child Welfare and Juvenile Services  
CWD Children with Disabilities  
CWIS Child Welfare Information System  
CWLA Child Welfare League of America  
CWU Child Welfare Unit  
CY Calendar Year  
CYPM Cross-Over Youth Practice Model

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DAR Drug Abuse Recognition  
DAS Department of Administrative Services  
DB Deaf Blindness  
DBH Division of Behavioral Health  
DCFS Division of Children and Family Services  
DCS Department of Correctional Services  
DCYC Douglas County Youth Shelter  
DD Developmental Disabilities, Developmentally Disabled, Developmental Delay  
DDSC Developmental Disability Services Coordination  
D&E Diagnostic and Evaluation Center  
DEC Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children  
DECA Distributive Clubs of America  
DED Nebraska Department of Economic Development  
DH Displaced Homemaker  
DHHS Department of Health and Human Services  
DIBELS Dynamic Indicators of Basic Literacy Skills  
DMC Disproportionate Minority Confinement  
DMLTC Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care  
DOB Date of Birth  
DOC Department of Corrections  
DOE Department of Education  
DOL Federal Department of Labor  
DPI Nebraska Department of Public Institutions  
DQI Data Quality Institute  
DRC Data Reporting Center  
DRI Driver Risk Inventory  
DSM-5 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Version 5  
DSM-IV-TR Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders  
DST Drug Screening and Testing  
DUI Driving Under the Influence  
DUS Driving Under Suspension

DV Domestic Violence  
 DVIP Domestic Violence Intervention Program  
 DWI Driving While Intoxicated  
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 EA Emergency Assistance or Economic Assistance  
 EAP Employee Assistance Program  
 EBP Evidence-Based Practice  
 EBT Electronic Benefit Transfer  
 ECE Early Childhood Education  
 ECICC Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council  
 ECO Early Childhood Outcomes (known in Nebraska as “Results Matter”)  
 ECPDP Early Childhood Professional Development Partnership  
 ECSE Early Childhood Special Education  
 ECTC Early Childhood Training Center  
 ED Department of Education  
 ED/BD Emotionally Disturbed/Behaviorally Disordered  
 EDGAR United States Department of Education’s General Administrative Regulations  
 EDN Early Development Network  
 EF Employment First  
 EFC Emergency Foster Care  
 EFGC Expedited Family Group Conference  
 EFH Extended Family Home  
 EFT Electronic Funds Transfer  
 EHS Early Head Start  
 EI Early Intervention  
 EI WAIVER Early Intervention Waiver  
 EIS Early Intervention System  
 EIV Earned Income Verification  
 ELL English Language Learner  
 ELO Extended Learning Opportunity  
 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  
 ER Emergency Room  
 ERS Electronic Reporting Service  
 ESA Eastern Service Area  
 ESC Emergency Shelter Center  
 ESEA Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
 ESH Emergency Shelter Home

ESL English as a Second Language  
ESU Educational Service Unit  
ESUCC Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council  
ESY Extended School Year  
ETGH Enhanced Treatment Group Home  
ETV Educational and Training Voucher

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F2F Face to Face  
F4SVP Fee for Service Voucher Program  
F/PCP Family/Person-Centered Practice  
FAE Fetal Alcohol Effects  
FAPE Free and Appropriate Public Education  
FAQ Frequently Asked Questions  
FAS Fetal Alcohol Syndrome  
FASD Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders  
FBA Functional Behavioral Assessment  
FC Foster Care  
FCCLA Family Career and Community Leaders of America  
FCP Family-Centered Practice (See also F/PCP)  
FCPAY Foster Care Payment Determination Checklist  
FCRB Foster Care Review Board  
FCRO Nebraska Foster Care Review Office  
FCS Family Consumer Science  
FDS Family Development Services  
FERPA Family Educational Right and Privacy Act  
FFA Future Farmers of America  
FFS Fee for Service  
FFY Federal Fiscal Year  
FGC Family Group Conferencing  
FGDM Family Group Decision Making  
FH Foster Home  
FHA Federal Housing Administration  
FICC Federal Interagency Coordinating Council  
FITS Family Intensive Treatment Services  
FMLA Family Medical Leave Act  
FP Foster Parent  
FPL Federal Poverty Level  
FPLS Federal Parent Locator Services  
FPS Family Permanency Specialist  
FS Food Stamps or Family Support  
FS-VOS Family Support – Visitation Only Services  
FSNA Family Strengths and Needs Assessment  
FSP Food Stamp Program  
FSS Family Support Services

FSW Family Support Worker  
FTA Failure to Appear  
FTE Full-Time Equivalent  
FTS Field Training Specialist  
FTT Failure to Thrive  
FWP Former Ward Program  
FY Fiscal Year  
FYC Foster Youth Council

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GA General Assistance  
GAI Gambling Addiction Index  
GAL Guardian ad Litem  
GAN Grant Award Notification  
GAP Federal Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program  
GBC Gaps and Barriers Committee (Early Childhood Interagency Coordination Council)  
GED General Educational Development

GEPA General Education Provisions Act

GH Group Home  
GHA Group Home (A)  
GHB Group Home II (B)  
GMS Grants Management System  
GPRA Government Performance and Results Act  
GSA General Services Administration  
GSEG General Supervision Enhancement Grant Program  
GYAC Governor's Youth Advisory Council

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HAL High-Ability Learner  
HBFT Home-Based Family Therapy  
HFW High-Fidelity Wraparound  
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  
HIE Health Information Exchange  
HIPAA Health Information Portability and Accountability Act  
HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus  
HOSA Health Occupations Students of America  
HQT Highly Qualified Teacher  
HRC Hastings Regional Center  
HRD Human Resources and Development  
HS High School  
HSSCO Head Start State Collaboration Office

HSTW High Schools That Work  
HUD Housing and Urban Development  
HX History  
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I&R Information and Referral  
IAES Interim Alternative Educational Setting  
IB International Baccalaureate  
ICAMA Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance  
ICAOS Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision  
ICC Interagency Coordinating Council  
ICE Immigration and Customs Enforcement, formerly INS: Immigration & Naturalization Service  
ICHARTS Internet – Children Have a Right to Support  
ICJ Interstate Compact on Juveniles  
ICPC Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children  
ICWA Indian Child Welfare Acts  
IDEA Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
IDEIA Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act  
IDI Initial Diagnostic Interview  
IDP Individual Learning Plan  
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  
IHE Institute of Higher Education  
IIP Ignition Interlock Permit  
IIS Intensive Individualized Services  
IL Independent Living  
ILCD Improving Learning for Children with Disabilities  
ILP Independent Living Plan  
IM Income Maintenance or Information Memorandum  
IMES Industrial Manufacturing and Engineering Systems  
IMFC Income Maintenance Foster Care  
INS Immigration and Naturalization Service  
IOP Intensive Outpatient Psychiatric  
IP Inpatient Psychiatric  
IPEDS Integrated Post-Secondary Integration Data System  
IPP Individual Program Plan  
IPS Interim Program School  
IQ Intelligence Quotient  
ISC Individualized Study Center  
ISP Intensive Supervised Probation

IS&T Information Systems and Technology  
IT Information Technology  
ITC Industrial Training Center (sheltered workshop)

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JAC Juvenile Assessment Center  
JBE Judicial Branch Education  
JCBI Juvenile Community-Based Intervention  
JCRI Juvenile Court Requested Information  
JD Juvenile Delinquent  
JDC Juvenile Detention Center  
JJ Juvenile Justice  
JJDA Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act  
JO Juvenile Offender  
JPO Juvenile Probation Officer  
JS Juvenile Services  
JSO Juvenile Services Officer

LADC Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor  
LB Legislative Bill  
LCC Lincoln Correctional Center  
LD Learning Disabled  
LDA Learning Disabilities Association  
LE Law Enforcement  
LEA Law Enforcement Agency  
LEP Limited English Proficiency  
LETC Law Enforcement Training Center  
LFO Local Field Office Dial  
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

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MA Mental Age  
MAC Medical Assistance for Children  
MCH Maternal and Child Health  
MCHB Maternal and Child Health Bureau  
MCRI Meyers Children's Rehabilitation Center  
MD Muscular Dystrophy  
MDE Multi-Disciplinary Team  
MDR Manifestation Determination Review

MDT Multidisciplinary Team  
MEPA Multi-Ethnic Placement Act  
MH Mentally Handicapped or Mental Health  
MHB Mental Health Board  
MHC Mental Health Center  
MHCP Medically Handicapped Children's Program  
MHPAEA Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act  
MHSA Mental Health Substance Abuse  
MI Motivational Interviewing  
MIP Minor in Possession  
MIPS Medicaid in Public Schools  
MLTC Medicaid and Long-Term Care  
MMC Medicaid Managed Care  
MMI Munroe Meyer Institute  
MMIS Medicaid Management Information System  
MOE Maintenance of Effort  
MOU Memorandum of Understanding  
MR Mental Retardation  
MRT Moral Recognition Therapy  
MSE Mental Status Exam  
MSP Mathematics and Science Partnership  
MST Multi-Systemic Therapy  
MSU Medical Support Unit  
MSW Master's Degree of Social Work

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N-FOCUS Nebraska Family Online Client User System  
NA Narcotics Anonymous  
NAC Nebraska Administrative Code  
NACAC North American Council on Adoptable Children  
NACDC Native American Community Development Corporation  
NAEYC National Association for the Education of Young Children  
NAMI National Alliance for the Mentally Ill  
NAPE Nebraska Association of Public Employees  
NAPS Nebraska Advocacy Service  
NAS Nebraska Advocacy Services  
NASDSE National Association of State Directors of Special Education  
NASES Nebraska Association of Special Education Supervisors  
NBHS Nebraska Behavioral Health System  
NCANDS National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System  
NCCY Nebraska Center for Children and Youth  
NCE Nebraska Career Education  
NCECBVI Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired  
NCES National Center for Educational Statistics  
NCFF Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

NCH Nebraska Children's Home  
NCIC National Crime Information Center  
NCLB No Child Left Behind  
NDE Nebraska Department of Education  
NDEN Nebraska Data Exchange Network  
NDHHS Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services  
NE Natural Environment  
NE-CFSR Nebraska Child and Family Services Review  
NEAT Nebraska Educational Assistive Technology Center  
NFAPA Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association  
NFF Nebraska Federation of Families  
NHC Nebraska Health Connection  
NICHCY National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities  
NICU Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit  
NICWA Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act  
NMAP Nebraska Medicaid Assistance Program  
NMMCP Nebraska Medicaid Managed Care Program

NORD National Organization for Rare Disorders  
NRC Norfolk Regional Center  
NRE Non-Residential Evaluation  
NREPP National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices  
NRRS Nebraska Resource and Referral System  
NRS Nebraska Revised Statutes  
NSA Northern Service Area  
NYTD National Youth in Transition Database

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O&M Orientation and Mobility  
OCC Omaha Correctional Center  
OCIO Office of the Chief Informational Officer  
OCR Office of Civil Rights  
ODD Oppositional Defiant Disorder  
OJJDP Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
OJS Office of Juvenile Services  
OJT On-the-Job Training  
OP Outpatient Psychiatric  
OSEP Office of Special Education Programs  
OSERS Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services  
OSHA Occupation Safety and Health Act  
OT Occupational Therapy or Overtime  
OVAE Office of Vocational and Adult Education

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P&S OR PS Protection and Safety  
PA Public Assistance



PALS Preparation for Adult Living Services  
PARA Paraprofessional or Para-educator  
PASS Plans to Achieve Self-Support  
PBIS Positive Behavior and Interventions Support  
PBY Preliminary Breath Test  
PCIT Parent-Child Interaction Therapy  
PCP Phencyclidine  
PD Police Department  
PDE Pre-Disposition Evaluation  
PDF Personal Development Facilitator  
PDI Pre-Disposition Investigation  
PDO Personal Development Organization  
PDP Professional Development Plan  
PECAN Prevent Excessive Cryptic Acronyms in Nebraska  
PIP Program Improvement Plan  
PLEP Present Level of Educational Performance  
PMT Project Management Team  
PO Parole Officer or Probation Officer  
PPP Professional Partner Program  
PRFC Professional Resource Family Care  
PRIDE Parent Resources for Information Development and Education  
PRTF Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility  
PSA Protection and Safety Administrator  
PSS Protection and Safety Supervisor  
PST Protection and Safety Trainee  
PSW Protection and Safety Worker  
PT Physical Therapy  
PTA Parent Teacher Association  
PTI Parent Training and Information  
PTSD Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder  
PU Parents United

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QA Quality Assurance  
QC Quality Control

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

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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  
SEIS 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  
SOC System of Care  
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

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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  
TIC Trauma Informed Care  
TLP Transitional Living Program  
TMA Transitional Medical Assistance  
TPR Termination of Parental Rights  
TPSW Tribal Protection and Safety Worker  
TR Tracker  
TR Tracker

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UA Urinalysis  
UC Unemployment Compensation  
UI Unemployment Insurance  
UM Utilization Management

UNLPPC University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

UNMC University of Nebraska Medical Center

VI Visual Impairment  
VR Vocational Rehabilitation  
VSS Visitation Support Services

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WAIS Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale  
WIC Women, Infants and Children  
WISC Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children  
WSA Western Service Area

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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  
YSC Youth System of Care



