

DEFINITIONS

Anchor Site – One of 18 national locations selected to receive technical assistance and grant resources from the Annie E. Casey Foundation with the goal of helping the site achieve comprehensive, positive change in child welfare practice and outcomes.

Adoptive Home - A foster family home that has an approved adoptive home study completed.

Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment - An assessment tool which provides information about a youth's functional independent living skills. The assessment provides templates for children in the foster care system, aged 8-18 and after emancipation.

Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) - A questionnaire designed to serve as a tool to screen and identify potential developmental delays for children ages 0-5.

Ages and Stages Questionnaire/Social Emotional (ASQ-SE) - A questionnaire designed to serve as a tool to screen and identify potential social-emotional developmental delays for children ages 0-5.

Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) - Aid provided on behalf of needy children in foster care who meet the eligibility requirements as specified in the California State Department of Children & Family Services Eligibility and Assistance Standards Manual and applicable state and federal laws.

Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) - A tool to measure impairment in day-to-day functioning in children and adolescents ages 5 to 18. For more information, please contact Kaye Hodges by e-mail at hodges@provide.net

Certified Family Homes - A family residence certified by a licensed Foster Family Agency and issued a certificate of approval by that agency as meeting licensing standards, and used only by the certifying Foster Family Agency for placements.

Child Focus Team - A team comprised of child welfare staff and community partners whose role is to identify needs and enhance services for children ages 0-5.

Child(ren) - A dependent of the Juvenile Court whose situation dictates out-of-home placement.

Decertification - A family home whose certification is cancelled/withdrawn by the licensing agency due either to non-compliance or request by the family home.

Dependency/Dependent Children - Persons under the age of 18 years who come within the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court of the County of Fresno in accordance with Section 300 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. Dependent children falling within the categories that are defined in Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 601 and 602, commonly referred to as "court wards", are not "dependent children" for the purposes of this Agreement.

Detained Children - Person under the age of 18 years who have been taken into temporary custody pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 305 through 307.5. Children taken into temporary custody pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 625, et seq. are not “detained children” for the purposes of this Agreement.

Duplicated Client - A child who has previously received the services stated in this Agreement from the provider during 12 consecutive months following the effective date of this Agreement.

Educational Rights Holder - In general the parent or guardian holds educational rights for the child unless the Court had approved otherwise. Determination of the child’s educational needs must include participation by the educational rights holder.

Emergency - A matter of immediate and urgent necessity related to the safety of the child or a crisis in the certified foster family home.

Family Finding – Activities aimed at the location and engagement of relatives of children living in foster care.

Foster Family Agency (FFA) - Any individual or organization engaged in the recruiting, certifying, and training of, and providing professional support to, foster parents, or in finding homes or other places for placement of children for temporary or permanent care who require that level of care as an alternative to a group home. Private foster family agencies shall be organized and operated on a nonprofit basis.

Foster Parent Resources (FPR) Liaison - A social worker assigned to the Foster Parent Resources unit who will serve as a non-partisan party to the Foster Family Agency and Department of Children and Family Services. The FPR Liaison will act as a conduit to maintain open lines of communication between both agencies.

Icebreaker - An initial meeting between the birth parent, resource family, and the social worker held for the purpose of free exchange of information regarding the child in care between the birth parent, resource family and social worker. Ice Breakers can occur if the child has subsequent moves.

Juvenile Inventory For Functioning (JIFF) - An assessment tool which screens for behaviors and symptoms in youth that could improve with targeted interventions. This assessment is best done with the participation of the child and care provider and/or birth parent.

Needs and Service Plan - An appraisal, completed jointly with the FFA social worker (with input from the DCFS social worker), foster parent, and child, if age appropriate, to identify the child’s individual needs and develop a service plan to meeting those needs. The needs and services appraisal will be completed within 30 days of placement, and at minimum of once a year after the initial appraisal.

Parent Engagement - A reunification process of engaging birth parents with foster parents, service providers, and County staff in activities that will result in a successful reunification with their child(ren).

Permanency Teaming - An overall practice approach which ensures that each member of the child's team has a voice and a regular opportunity to meet face-to-face, share in decision making, *and participate in all aspects of the child and family case plan. It is through "teaming" that best outcomes for children are achieved. Members of the team are the child and the birth family, the DCFS social worker, the foster parents, and community and family support systems, including the FFA social worker. Both large and small team meetings are held regularly for the purpose of ensuring that the child's safety and well being outcomes are achieved, as well as his/her permanency. The teams will play a critical role in both identifying and supporting the child's permanent family, and ensuring that the child leaves the jurisdiction of DCFS, in the care of his/her permanent family, as rapidly and as safely as possible.*

Respite - Short-term care for a foster child(ren) and designed to prevent burn out from the foster parent(s).

Rolling Over - Refers to the action by which a certified family voluntarily or involuntarily departs from one foster family agency to become a member of another foster family agency. *If foster children are involved, they are not automatically moved with the family without a staffing prior to the change.*

Staffing - A meeting to share information for decision making, case planning, or developing other recommendations regarding services, placement, or other action on behalf of a child or family.

Team Decision Making (TDM) - A meeting that brings together birth parents, foster parents, service providers, agency staff, and facilitators held to make immediate decisions regarding a child's placement or respond to findings of imminent risks.

TDM Action Plan - An action plan developed in collaboration with the birth parents, foster parents, service providers, and agency staff to meet the needs of the child and support realistic goals for reunification.

Supervised Visit - A face-to-face contact between the child, child's family, and the out-of-home care provider. If deemed appropriate by the County or juvenile court, this may include the child's parents(s), guardian(s), siblings, grandparents, or others.

Whole Family Foster Home - A family home, approved relative caregiver, non-related extended family member's home, or certified family home that provides foster care for a minor parent and his/her child, and is specifically recruited and trained to assist the minor parent in developing the skills necessary to provide a safe, stable, and permanent home for his/her child.

Unduplicated Client - A child who receives the services stated in the Agreement from the provider for the first time during this contract period.