

# Definitions for Acronyms used in Child Welfare Related Fields

## 1. Roles:

**GAL** - Guardian ad Litem - attorney appointed to represent a child's best interest to the court can file motions.... in court.

**CA** county attorney - represents the people of Mesa County but commonly is seen as DHS attorney

**CW or CM** caseworker or Child Welfare – DHS worker who manages child welfare cases for safety and permanency of children. (Aka CM case manager)

**CASA** - Court Appointed Special Advocate (volunteer who is appointed by the court to be the courts eyes and ears to provide reports to the court regarding the child's needs...) they are appointed in most cases with young children but not all cases.

**MOC or FOC** – mother of child father of child. Aka, parents are also respondent parents represented by respondent attorneys.

**Plcmt provider or FH**– foster parent or kinship provider...

**PRM** Placement Resource Manager - studies and licenses foster and kinship homes for DHS provides limited support and problem solving for placement providers.

**Respondent attorney** – attorney for the parent

## 2. Court related terms

**D&N** – Dependency and Neglect (petition filed with the court to maintain jurisdiction and perhaps but not always custody of children ...)

**A/N** – Abuse and Neglect

**XPP** – Expedited Permanency Planning required law for children under six to be in or have a plan for a permanent placement within 12 months of removal. (in other counties, it is called EPP)

**ICPC**—Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (agreement between states to allow for children to be placed with families in other states while sending state retains most of financial and legal responsibilities)

**ICWA**- Indian Child Welfare Act

**Court Hearing types:** first hearing is typically a **Shelter** hearing - and is held in the 1<sup>st</sup> 72 hours after placement (to decide whether to continue in DHS custody, return custody to parents, place in kinship custody, identify need for attorneys... Set date for next hearing: Advisement Hearing - admit or deny the D & N petition, or set a return advisement or pretrial conference.

If the case is to continue, the court needs to rule the child is Adjudicated Dependent and Neglected this can happen in mediation or stipulation process or an **Adjudication Hearing**.

After **Adjudication** comes a **Dispositional hearing** - a treatment plan is proposed and ultimately ordered.

Court **Review Hearings** – are scheduled thorough out the case to inform the court as to progress

**Motions hearings** - are requested between or in place of review hearings are formally requested by filing of a motion with the court they can be filed by respondent attorneys or county attorney or GAL they can be to return children to home, suspend visits, move to unsupervised visits...

**TPR** - Termination of Parental Rights (a hearing held in court after DHS requests and CA files the request and the court sets date to consider termination or allocation of parental rights) (makes the child available for adoption)

**Permanency Hearing** – is a specific hearing where DHS must recommend a safe and stable home for the future, (choices are limited to eight possibilities, which include return home, adoption, kin ...)

**Allocation of parental rights:** alternative to TPR the court may order that parental rights be granted to a kinship provider. (not considered to be as permanent as TPR) and domestic relations court.

## 3. Meetings or review bodies:

**FPM or FEM** Facilitated Permanency Meeting or Family Engagement Meeting process done with DHS cases with external facilitator to resolve cases either identifying barriers to progress (stuck cases) or by developing an alternative permanency plan to avoid a TPR trial. Results can be stipulation to TPR or Allocation of parental rights. (Occasionally includes a plan for continued parent child contact)

**TTM-** Treatment team meetings include parents, treatment providers, placement provider, CASA, SPT supervisor, caseworker...

**CoTeam** regular meeting held to review cases in a consistent setting, (includes several different supervisors), authorizes services and assists case worker in making decisions which are then subject to court orders.

**FCR or Administrative Review** - foster Care Review state conducted meeting/audit to review state rules ... (occasional has financial or other sanctions related but does not always coincide with court orders)

**CPT** - Child Protection Team (community members who meet regularly to review child protection referrals)

#### 4. Services or programs

**SPT – Structured Parent Time** (aka supervised visits) a time set aside for parents and children to maintain relationship or improve relationship, demonstrate skills learned in other components of treatment plan....this time is often supervised by a Structured Parent time specialist.

**Child Find** - School district program for Early child hood assessments usually pre school

**NFP-** Nurse family partnership (home visit program with the health dept.)

**PSSF-** Partnership for Safe and Stable Families: funding category for certain programs and services for children.

**BOP** – Bridges out of Poverty philosophy and practice adopted in Mesa County a few years ago many of the principals continue to be used to understand clients from generational poverty.

**F2F**– Family to Family a Cassey Foundation program partial funded in Mesa County a few years ago and widely accepted as good practice.

**ILA** – Independent Living Arrangement – Alternative Program to conventional foster care for youth over 16 years old who have completed specific services to be in the program.

**TRCCF** - Therapeutic Residential Child Care Facility- for children with need that cannot be meet at lower levels of care, i.e. Foster care.

#### 5. Agencies or programs

**ATU-** Alternative Treatment Unit

**RYS-**Residential Youth Services

**DYC-** Department of Youth Corrections

**COMCOR-** Community Corrections

**TOC** - The Opportunity Center

**MS**– Mind Springs Mental Health

**MCDHS**– Mesa County Department of Human Services

**MDS** - Mesa Developmental Service

**CJSD** - Criminal Justice Services Department

**CPA** - Child Placement Agency

**PCF-** Partnership for Children and Families

**FAP-** Family and Adolescent Partnership

**ARIEL-** Structured Parenting Time Visitation Agency

#### 6. Old acronyms that still show may up:

*DEC* Drug Endangered Children subcommittee for Meth Task Force

*BLOOM* early childhood program for children 0-5 year mental health services and training for community. Philosophy is still out there in quality assessment for very young children

*CMT* - Child Management Team

*AMT* - Adolescent Management Team

*MART* - Multiple Agency Review Team

*DART* - Delinquency Agency Review Team