



Disabled Parents Rights

Glossary of terms used in Dependency & Neglect cases

AND Aid to the Needy Disabled. A very small cash benefit payable to disabled persons without any other income sources.

APR Allocation of Parental Responsibilities. This grants custody of children to a parent, special respondent, kin, or other family member.

CASA Court Appointed Special Advocate – A non-lawyer volunteer appointed by the court to look out for the best interests of your children. The CASA conducts an investigation, visit with the child, and in most counties, the CASA writes a report to the court making recommendations in the best interests of the child.

Caseworker The person who works for the Department of Social Services whose job is to work with the parents and make reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need for placement of children out of the parents' home. The Caseworker drafts the Treatment Plan, makes referrals for services needed by the parents or the child, visits the child at home or in placement, and generally manages the case.

CDHS Colorado Department of Human Services. CDHS is the state agency that provides funding to DDHS, and oversees child protection work statewide. CDHS also investigates complaints of wrongdoing by licensed foster homes and DDHS.

Core Services Services that Colorado law requires or allows DDHS to provide to families, at DHS expense for indigent parents.

County/City Attorney The attorney's who represents the People and the Department of Social Services.

C.R.S. Colorado Revised Statutes. Colorado law.

CSE Child Support Enforcement. If your children are placed out of the home, CSE may seek child support from you.

D&N Dependency and Neglect. This is the type of case you are involved in. This is different than a criminal case, domestic relations (divorce), or juvenile delinquency case.

DHS Department of Human Services. DHS is sometimes referred to as social services, or "The Department."

Diligent Search A search for parents or other relatives of a child involved in a D&N case. DSS is required to conduct a diligent search for family members who may be a resource for the child or family.

EPP Expedited Permanency Planning. In cases where one or more of the children involved in the case are under age 6 at the time the case was filed, all children in the case must be in a

permanent home within one year with few exceptions.

Family Treatment Court [FTC] This is the 19th Judicial District's drug court for parents involved in a D&N case. Many other judicial districts have similar drug courts. These courts are designed specifically for parents who have substance abuse problems that have affected their ability to properly care for their children. Typically, the court and parents meet once per week to review the parent's progress in treatment.

FOC Father of Child

FSR Family Support Registry. This the Colorado state agency that processes child support payments.

GAL Guardian *ad litem*. The GAL is the lawyer who legally represents your child's best interests. Sometimes a GAL is appointed for a parent with a disability to represent the parent's best interests.

HCBS Home and Community Based Services. HCBS can provide parents with mental illness, developmental disabilities or physical disabilities Medicaid eligibility and assistance at home and in the community. HCBS can also provide respite care and in home assistance for medically fragile children and children with extreme behaviors.

ICPC Interstate Child Placement Compact. Whenever a child is placed with a relative or parent out

of state, the receiving state must complete a homestudy and approve the placement.

ICWA Indian Child Welfare Act. If you or your child are eligible for tribal membership, the court and DDHS must follow different procedures to try to reunify your family.

IEP Individualized Education Program. Developed for school children with disabilities to identify education related needs.

Intervenor A person who is not a parent who is involved in a D&N case because they have an interest in the welfare of the child. Intervenor are often grandparents or other relatives of the child, foster parents, or unrelated persons who were involved in the child's life before the case was filed.

Kinship Kinship refers to biological relatives or other individuals who have a close relationship with a child such as a grandparent.

MOC Mother of Child

OPPLA Other Permanent Planned Living Arrangements. This is a permanency plan when the plan is for children to remain in foster care, emancipate from foster care, or other permanent arrangements such as remaining in DHS custody, but living with relatives. This plan is usually opted for older children only.

Petition The Petition is the paperwork that DDHS files with the court to start your case. It states why DDHS thinks the court should be involved with your family.

Petitioner Petitioner refers to DDHS

POC Parent of Child

Respondent Respondents are the child(ren)'s parents or other legal custodians when the case starts.

RTC Residential Treatment Center.

Section 8 Housing A Federally funded program that provides housing vouchers for needy families.

SSDI Social Security Disability Insurance, a payment made based upon the recipient's disability and work history.

SSI Supplemental Security Income, a payment made based upon the recipient's age or disability and low income status.

Special Respondent Special Respondents are other people involved in a child's life who have a substantial role in parenting the child such as kinship providers, guardians or step parents.

Temporary Aid to Needy Families [TANF] The financial assistance program that is available to needy families. Families that are eligible for TANF are most often also eligible for Food Stamps.

TDM Team Decision Making meetings. Some counties have TDM meetings whenever a change in a child's placement is needed, or when case planning is needed. These are sometimes called Family Team Meetings (FTMs), FACT conferences, VOICES meetings, LINKS meetings, or other names depending on your county.

TRCCF Therapeutic Residential Child Care Facility. This is a residential treatment facility for children.

Treatment plan A treatment plan is designed to fix the problems that caused court involvement or that prevent a child from going home.

The treatment plan is a court order and parents are required to follow it.

TPR Termination of Parental Rights. This is the most drastic remedy the court has and it cuts all ties between a child and his/her parents. The child can then be adopted by new parents.

Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act [UCCJEA] This Act has been passed in nearly all of the states. The Act is designed to prevent jurisdictional disputes between the courts in different states. Except in emergency situations, only one state may exercise custody jurisdiction over a child at a time.

Visitation Contact between a parent and child. This is sometimes referred to as Parenting Time. Although In D&N cases it is often supervised. Supervised Visitation may consist of monitoring by the supervisor or the supervisor may be in constant contact with the parent and child through the course of the visit. Therapeutic Visitation also occurs in some cases. This type of visitation is used to help parents learn how to interact in more healthy ways with their children.

Disabled Parents Rights is a small organization dedicated to combating discrimination that impacts parenting for parents with all types of disabilities.

You can visit us on the internet at www.disabledparentsrights.org.

You can "like" our Facebook page at <http://fb.me/DisabledParentsRights>

This fact sheet does not provide legal advice, and does not create an attorney-client relationship. If you need legal advice, please contact an attorney directly.

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