

TO: Parents, Relatives, Caretakers and Interested Persons

RE: Terminology Used in the Dependency Court

The terminology in Dependency Court can at times be confusing. In order to assist in providing a better understanding of the terminology frequently used in Dependency Court, we have prepared the following glossary.

AAP: Aid to Adopt Program (financial assistance for adoptive parents).

ACCESS: Refers to Adults'/Children's Crisis Emergency Services System. This agency screens and refers children to mental health services (e.g. counseling).

ADMINISTRATIVE

REVIEW OR "AR" A review of the welfare of a child in foster care by a panel of persons, conducted at least once a year. The review is open to the parents of child, parents' attorney and child's attorney. The panel reviews the report from the Department of Health & Human Services.

A.F.T.E.R.: Associated Family Therapy for Effective Recovery. An agency providing counseling services to families and children in the dependency system.

ALLEGED

FATHER: A man who may be the father of the child, but whose biological paternity has not yet been established, or who has not, in the alternative, achieved "presumed father status."

ALTA CALIF.

REGIONAL

CENTER:

Non-profit agency providing service to persons with developmental disabilities.

AOD:

Alcohol and other drug assessment. An assessment to determine if a person has a drug and/or alcohol problem, and if so, develop a treatment plan.

APR:

Appearance Progress Report. A report by DHHS (see DHHS) ordered by the court to address a special topic(s).

BIA:

Bureau of Indian Affairs. Federal agency charged with administration of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

CASA:

Court Appointed Special Advocates. This is a volunteer who has been recruited, screened, selected and trained as a sworn officer of the court to help define the best interests of a dependent child.

CDCW:

Chemical Dependency Center for Women. Substance abuse treatment facility.

CFI:

Child and Family Institute. Agency providing counseling, especially to victims of sexual abuse.

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| <u>CHDP:</u> | Child Health and Disability Prevention Program. This program provides health related services to children. |
| <u>CI & I:</u> | Criminal Identification and Investigation. Provides criminal background information on individuals. |
| <u>CONCURENT PLANNING:</u> | Refers to the legal requirement in dependency cases that reunification services be provided simultaneously with the development of an alternative plan, in case it is needed. |
| <u>CONSORTIUM FOR CHILDREN:</u> | A mediation group to help birth relatives and prospective adoptive parent(s) reach an agreement on post-adoption contact. |
| <u>CPS:</u> | Child Protective Services. Local agency responsible for investigating allegations of child abuse and neglect. |
| <u>DA:</u> | District Attorney. Law office which prosecutes criminal cases. |
| <u>DAS:</u> | Dependency Associates of Sacramento. This is a law firm under contract with the court to provide legal services to parents involved in the Dependency Court. |
| <u>DCC:</u> | Deputy County Counsel. This is the lawyer who represents the Department of Health & Human Services. |
| <u>DDC:</u> | Dependency Drug Court. A collaboration between the juvenile court, the Department of Health & Human Services, Parents' and Minors' Counsel, and County Counsel, designed to insure the parent receives timely and appropriate alcohol and drug treatment. The parent is encouraged to actively participate in these services through the utilization of sanctions and incentives. |
| <u>DECLARATION OF PATERNITY:</u> | Form signed by unmarried parents, generally at the hospital, where the parents declare who is the father of the child. |
| <u>DE FACTO:</u> | A person found by the court to have assumed, on a day to day basis, the role of parent, fulfilling both the child's physical and psychological needs for care and affection, and who has assumed that role for a substantial period. |
| <u>DELINQUENCY COURT:</u> | The division of the Juvenile Court hearing cases where juveniles have been charged with committing a crime. |
| <u>DEPENDENCY COURT:</u> | The division of the Juvenile Court hearing cases of child abuse and neglect |

**DEPENDENCY
DRUG COURT:**

A special court which is part of the Dependency Court. The Dependency Drug Court is designed to insure a parent receives timely alcohol and drug treatment services as part of the reunification plan and to encourage the parent to actively participate in those services through utilization of sanctions and incentives.

**DETENTION
HEARING
OR “DET”:**

The initial hearing in Dependency Court soon after the child has been removed from the parent.

DHHS:

Department of Health & Human Services. County agency responsible to investigate child abuse and neglect, file petitions to declare children dependents of the court. Provide services to families to facilitate reunification, or if no reunification is possible, seek adoption, guardianship or other plan for the child.

**DISPOSITIONAL
HEARING:**

If a child falls under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, the court holds a dispositional hearing to determine whether the child will become a dependent of the court, where the child will reside, and what services, if any, will be provided to the parent.

EPSDT:

Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment. Program to provide health care services.

FM:

Family Maintenance. A program of CPS where a parent or guardian volunteers to participate in services to prevent the removal of a child from the home.

FSW:

Family Service Worker. A Department of Health & Human Services employee who supervises visits, transports children and performs related tasks.

GUARDIAN:

A person appointed by the court who is given legal authority and responsibility to care for a child.

**21(E),21(F), &
22 HEARINGS:**

These are court review hearings held approximately every six (6) months to review, monitor the welfare of the child, and evaluate the parents efforts at reunification.

26 HEARING:

This is the hearing at which the court will decide whether to terminate parental rights and free the child for adoption, order a legal guardianship, or order a plan of permanent planned living arrangement.

364 HEARING:

Refers to Welfare and Institutions Code section 364, which governs the legal criteria for review of a dependent child residing with a parent.

366.3(a):

Refers to the Welfare and Institutions Code section which governs the legal criteria for review of dependent children who are in the process of adoption or guardianship.

387 PETITION: A petition filed by the Department of Health & Human Services seeking to modify a previous placement order of the Juvenile Court by removing a child from the physical custody of the parent, guardian or relative.

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**MODIFICATION
OR “MOD”:**

A petition claiming circumstances have changed or new evidence has arisen, claiming it would be in the best interest of the child to change a previous court order.

827 PETITION:

Petition by a person requesting permission to examine a Juvenile Court file.

ICPC:

Refers to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. This law has as its purpose to have states cooperate with each other in the interstate placement of children and to ensure each child requiring placement receives the maximum opportunity to be placed in a suitable home.

ICWA:

Indian Child Welfare Act. Federal law whose purpose is to protect the integrity of an Indian family.

IEP:

Individualized Education Plan. Plan of educational services for a student who is entitled to special education services.

ILP:

Independent Living Program. This is a county program designed to provide services to youths about to exit the dependency system. Services include help in finding a job, housing, and health care.

IMAC:

Interagency Management Authorization Committee. The committee is comprised of representatives from Children's Protective Services, Probation, Mental Health, Alta California Regional Center and rotating school district representatives. IMAC functions include: approval of all 13/14 level group home placements; approval of out-of-state placements in residential treatment facilities; recommendations for resolution of disputed 241.1 cases (e.g. cases that involve both Children's Protective Services and Probation); and approval of Wraparound services.

JURISDICTIONAL

HEARING:

The hearing at which the court determines whether the child falls within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

KIN-GAP:

Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program. This program allows someone who is appointed guardian for a relative to continue to receive the same basic foster care rate paid to other licensed foster parents.

LOCAL RULES:

Rules adopted by the Superior Court governing court procedures.

MARSDEN

HEARING:

A hearing where a person represented by a court appointed lawyer requests the lawyer be relieved and a new court lawyer be appointed by the court.

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| <u>MEDIATION:</u> | Dependency mediation provides a non-adversarial setting in which a mediator assists the parties in reaching a fully informed and mutually acceptable resolution that focuses on the child's safety and best interest, and the safety of all family members. |
| <u>MDIC:</u> | Multi-Disciplinary Interview Committee. This program allows for a single, rather than multiple interviews of a child in a sexual abuse investigation. |
| <u>MIND INSTITUTE:</u> | A program of UC Davis Medical Center. Medical investigation of neurological disorders. |
| <u>MINUTE ORDER:</u> | Document prepared by clerk recording orders of the court. |
| <u>NAC:</u> | Neighborhood Alternative Center |
| <u>OMBUDSMAN:</u> | A person who hears and responds to complaints. The Department of Health & Human Services has an Ombudsman's office, phone number: 916-875-2000. The State of California has a foster care Ombudsman to investigate complaints about children in foster care. |
| <u>PAS:</u> | Parent Advocates of Sacramento. This is a law firm under contract with the court to provide legal services to parents involved in the Dependency Court. |
| <u>PC:</u> | Protective Custody. This term describes what occurs when a child is removed from physical custody of a parent and placed out of home due to alleged child abuse/neglect. |
| <u>PD:</u> | Public Defender. Law office representing indigent persons charged with a crime. |
| <u>PJ:</u> <u>(JUVENILE</u> <u>COURT):</u> | Presiding Judge. The judge responsible for operation of the Juvenile Court. |
| <u>PPLA:</u> | Permanent Planned Living Arrangement (formerly: Long Term Foster Care). |
| <u>PRESUMED</u> <u>FATHER:</u> | A man who is married to the mother of the child, who has signed a declaration of paternity, or has received the child into his home and held the child out to the community as his child. |
| <u>PRE-TRIAL:</u> | A court hearing prior to trial to determine issues for trial, witnesses, and whether the matter can be resolved without a trial. |
| <u>PRIDE</u> <u>PROGRAM:</u> | Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education. Pride is a model for the development and support of foster/adoptive families. It is designed to strengthen the quality of foster family care/adoption services by providing a standardized, structured framework for recruiting, preparing & selecting foster parents & adoptive parents. |

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| <u>RCCC:</u> | Rio Consumes Correctional Center. This is a local institution of incarceration. |
| <u>REFEREE:</u> | A judicial officer presiding over a Dependency case |
| <u>REHEARING REQUEST:</u> | A request by any party to have a referee's decision reviewed by the Presiding Judge. |
| <u>REUNIFICATION SERVICES:</u> | Social services designed to help a parent in overcoming the issues which lead to the start of the dependency case, and which will facilitate the return of the child to the parent. |
| <u>SARB:</u> | Student Attendance and Review Board. This board reviews cases where students are chronically missing school. |
| <u>SCA:</u> | Sacramento Child Advocates. This non-profit corporation provides legal services to children in the Dependency Court. |
| <u>SCAN:</u> | Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect. A medical review of whether a child has been sexually abused. |
| <u>SRIL:</u> | Subsequent Review in Lieu. This is a court hearing conducted in lieu of an Administrative Review for a child in foster care. |
| <u>STANDING ORDER:</u> | Orders issued by the Presiding Judge governing the administration of the Juvenile Court. (For example, a standing order on the financial responsibility of parents for payment of legal fees). |
| <u>STARS:</u> | Specialized Treatment and Recovery Services Program. This program is provided by the Department of Health & Human Services to provide alcohol and drug treatment. |
| <u>WEAVE:</u> | Women Escaping a Violent Environment. An agency providing services to women who have been the victims of domestic violence. |
| <u>W & I:</u> | California Welfare & Institutions Codes. Contains the basic California laws on Dependency proceedings. |
| <u>W & I 241.I ASSESSMENT:</u> | An assessment completed by the Department of Health & Human Services, and the Probation Department in order to make a recommendation to the court whether a child is better served in Dependency or Delinquency Court. |
| <u>WRAP FOCUS SERVICES:</u> | Specialized and intensive social and health services designed to facilitate the placement of a child with their parent, who is currently residing in a group home or at risk of going into a group home. |