

SESSION 1 OVERVIEW: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA)

- Federal legislation provides guidance to States by identifying a minimum set of acts or behaviors that define child abuse and neglect. The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)¹ (42 U.S.C.A. § 5106g), as amended by the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010, defines child abuse and neglect as, at minimum:

- "Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation"; or
- "An act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm."

This definition of child abuse and neglect refers specifically to parents and other caregivers. A "child" under this definition generally means a person who is younger than age 18 or who is not an emancipated minor.²

TYPES OF ABUSE

TERM

DEFINITION

Abandonment

A situation in which the child has been left by the parent(s), the parent's identity or whereabouts are unknown, the child suffers serious harm, as a result of his/her desertion, or the parent has failed to maintain contact with the child or to provide reasonable support for a specified period of time.

Emotional Abuse

Typical language used in these definitions is "injury to the psychological capacity or emotional stability of the child as evidenced by an observable or substantial change in behavior, emotional response or cognition" and injury as evidenced by "anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or aggressive behavior."

¹ <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/about.pdf>

² <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/defining/federal/>

Neglect	Frequently defined as the failure of a parent or other person
Parental Substance Abuse	Circumstances that are considered parental abuse or neglect include: Prenatal exposure of a child due to a mother's use of an illegal drug. Manufacture of a controlled substance in the presence of a child or on the premises occupied by a child, or use of a controlled substance by a caregiver that impairs the caregiver's ability to adequately care for the child.
Physical Abuse	Generally defined as "any non-accidental physical injury to the child" and can include striking, kicking, burning, or biting the child, or any action that results in a physical impairment of the child.
Sexual Abuse	According to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), the employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct; or the rape, and in cases of caretaker or interfamilial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children.
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	
Child Sex Trafficking	The act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, obtaining, patronizing, soliciting, or maintaining a child (under 18 years of age) for commercial sex, including prostitution and the production of child pornography.
Human Trafficking	A crime involving the exploitation of someone for the purposes of compelled labor or a commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.
Labor Trafficking	Labor trafficking is the exploitation of a person for labor or services through force, fraud or coercion. Labor trafficking victims are often forced into domestic servitude, agricultural work, restaurant work or factory work.
Sex Trafficking	Sex trafficking occurs when a child under the age of 18 is involved in a commercial sex act, including prostitution, sexually explicit performance or production of pornography in exchange for something of value

	(money, food, clothing, shelter, drugs, alcohol, etc.).
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PLACEMENT TYPES	
TERM	DEFINITION
Congregate Care	A placement setting of group home (a licensed or approved home providing 24-hour care in a small group setting of 7 to 12 children) or institution (a licensed or approved child care facility operated by a public or private agency and providing 24-hour care and/or treatment typically for 12 or more children who require separation from their own homes or a group living experience). These settings may include child care institutions, residential treatment facilities, or maternity homes. ³
Foster Care	A 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians, and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre-adoptive homes.
Group Home	A licensed or approved home providing 24-hour care for children in a small group setting that generally has from seven to twelve children.
Institutions	A child care facility operated by a public or private agency and providing 24-hour care and/or treatment for children who require separation from their own homes and group living experience. These facilities may include: Child care institutions; residential treatment facilities; maternity homes; etc.
Pre-Adoptive Home	A home in which the family intends to adopt the child. The family may or may not be receiving a foster care payment or an adoption subsidy on behalf of the child.
Trial Home Visits/Reunification	A court-ordered placement where the child is returned from an out-of-home placement to the care of the parent or guardian from whom he or she was removed

³ https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cbcongregatecare_brief.pdf

OTHER TERMS	
TERM	DEFINITION
Aging Out	The process of a youth transitioning from the formal control of the foster care system towards independent living. It is used to describe anytime a foster youth leaves the varying factors of foster care, including home, school and financial systems also referred to as emancipation.
Cultural Humility	Cultural humility is about accepting our limitations and working to increase self-awareness of our own biases and perceptions and engage in a life-long self-reflection process about how to put these aside and learn from others.
Disproportionality	“Refers to the ratio between the percentage of persons in a particular racial or ethnic group at a particular decision point or experiencing an event (maltreatment, incarceration, school dropouts) compared to the percentage of the same racial or ethnic group in the overall population.” ⁴
Domestic Violence	Domestic violence (also called intimate partner violence (IPV), domestic abuse or relationship abuse) is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.
Empathy	The ability to understand and share the feelings of another
Protective Factor	A characteristic at the biological, psychological, family, or community (including peers and culture) level that is associated with a lower likelihood of problem outcomes or that reduces the negative impact of a risk factor on problem outcomes. Protective/promotive factors include nurturing and attachment, parental resilience, knowledge of parenting, opportunities for engagement within school and the community, and individual coping skills.

⁴ <https://oxfordre.com/socialwork/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199975839.001.0001/acrefore-9780199975839-e-899>

OTHER TERMS	
TERM	DEFINITION
Risk Factors	Characteristics at the biological, psychological, family, community, or cultural level that precede and are associated with a higher likelihood of negative outcomes.
Unsubstantiated/Unfounded	An investigation disposition that determines that there is not sufficient evidence under State law or policy to conclude that a child has been maltreated or is at risk of maltreatment. A child protective services determination means that credible evidence does not exist that child abuse or neglect has occurred