

Glossary

The following terms and phrases below should be used within the context of the Out of Home Safety Assessment and Management Process. They have been developed to provide clarification for individuals/agencies that may use the same term in a different context.

Primary Definitions:

Out of home care: 24 hour care and supervision of a child outside of the home from which the child was removed; 'out of home' care includes both informal and formal care arrangements.

Out of home caregiver: for the purposes of the out of home safety assessment and management process, this term refers to the individual providing care to the child in all situations of formal and informal care.

Formal care: required in situations in which the county agency has legal and physical custody of the child and places the child in an emergency caregiver's home that has temporary approval from a State-licensed foster care agency, or in a resource home fully approved by a State-licensed foster care or adoption agency.

Informal care: situations in which a child who is not in agency custody goes to live with an alternate caregiver. These situations include 1) arrangements made by parents/guardians prior to Children and Youth involvement or 2) arrangements agreed upon jointly between the parents/guardians and the Children and Youth agency when the situation occurs during the course of Children and Youth involvement.

The term "prior to" refers to situations where the parent/caregiver elected to move the subject child(ren) on their own accord prior to the Children and Youth agency becoming involved with the family for which the trigger is the decision to accept the case for assessment or investigation.

The term "involvement" refers to cases that have been accepted for a CPS investigation, GPS assessment or accepted for service.

Present Danger: an *immediate, significant, and clearly observable* family condition (severe harm or threat of severe harm) occurring to a child/youth in the present tense, endangering or threatening to endanger a child and therefore requiring prompt response.

Glossary (continued)

Secondary Definitions:

Pennsylvania Standard of Care: all out of home care settings will be evaluated using the same criteria and expectations regardless of the setting. Kinship care (formal and informal) and foster care homes will be assessed using the same standards and safety decisions/responses to the assessment will be the same.

Qualified Caseworker: a person with case management or case visitation responsibilities for a particular case e.g. monthly face to face visits by:

- The county children and youth worker;
- The juvenile probation officer;
- The private provider agency with which the county has an agreement to provide services, including visitation management;
- The foster care facility case manager with global case management responsibilities, including visitation and service coordination; and/or
- In out-of-state placement cases, a counterpart of these same legal entities.

Individuals who see the child, but who do not have case management or case visitation responsibility, would not qualify for the required monthly face-to-face visit with the child in foster care. These individuals include:

- General service providers;
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA's);
- Guardians ad litem (GAL's);
- Volunteers;
- Case aides;
- Foster parents;
- Direct care staff within congregate care settings; or
- Anyone without case management or case visitation responsibilities.

Caregiver of Origin: The adult(s) who holds the primary responsibility for the child's safety (i.e. the child's natural parent). In addition to natural parents, a caregiver may be another person who operates in that capacity (i.e. stepparents, an adult companion of a child's parent, a grandparent, an uncle or aunt, etc). The caregiver resides with the child. This does not include people who care for a child temporarily such as relatives caring for a child from time to time, care providers such as day care or other institutions, babysitters.

Resource family: a family which provides temporary foster or kinship care for children who need out of home placement and may eventually provide permanency for those children, including an adoptive family.

Kinship care: the full-time nurturing and protection by kin, through informal or formal means, of a child who is separated from his/her parents or guardians.

Glossary (continued)

Kin: an individual with an existing relationship with a child and/or a child's family by virtue of being:

- A relative of the child through blood or marriage;
- A god-parent of the child as recognized by an organized church;
- A member of the child's tribe or clan; or
- Someone with a significant positive relationship with the child or the child's family.

Relative: any relation by blood, marriage or adoption who is within the fifth degree of kinship to the child; the fifth degree includes great-great-grandparents and first cousins once removed.

Safety in Out of Home Care: a family and home situation where there is an absence of perceived or actual threats, a refuge exists and is experienced, family members have perceptions and feelings of security and there is confidence in consistency.