

Acronym Glossary for the Court and Dependency Process



The **Dependency Acronym Glossary** is a collaborative effort by Washington Courts, the Office of Public Defense, the Office of Civil Legal Aid, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, the Office of the Attorney General, and Lived Experts. It defines acronyms commonly used in dependency courts and agencies to help parents, youth, caregivers, and professionals better understand the process, improve communication, and promote fairness.

What's included:

- Acronyms related to the court and dependency process.
- County and statewide acronyms.
- Legal definition and a plain-language versions for each acronym.
- Plain-language definitions written at a 6th to 8th grade reading level.



Can't find the acronym you're looking for or know an acronym that should be included? You can submit or request acronyms to be included by scanning the QR code, or by going to: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/2d18f8f1cc324674ade4d92b4e393fbd>

To search for a word or phrase in this publication, press CTRL+F (Windows) or CMD+F (Mac). Enter your search in the field. Click the arrows to navigate the search results.

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
A/N Abuse/Neglect	Abuse is when someone hurts a child or does something sexual to them. Neglect is when someone does not take proper care of a child, which puts them in danger.	The injury of a child by any person or the negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for or providing care to the child. Abuse means sexual abuse or causing injury to a child under circumstances which cause harm. Neglect means an act or failure to act, or the cumulative effects of a pattern of conduct, behavior, or inaction that demonstrates a serious disregard for the consequences so great that it presents a clear and present danger to a child.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=110-30-0030
AA Alcoholics Anonymous	A group where people help each other stop drinking alcohol.	Alcoholics Anonymous is a group for individuals to come together and support one another in achieving sobriety from alcohol.	www.aa.org
AA Area Administrator	A person who leads a DCYF office and manages the staff there.	Department Children Youth and Families (DCYF) manager that oversees staff and operations at a field office location. Area Administrators report to a Deputy Regional Administrator.	https://apps-ca-ext.dcyf.wa.gov/EmployeeDirectoryInternet/EmployeeDirectoryInternet/



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



Washington State Office of
Civil Legal Aid



Washington State
Office of
Public
Defense

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AACWA Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act	A law that helps pay for adoptions from foster care.	The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 provided the first Federal subsidies to encourage the adoption of children from the nation's foster care system.	www.childwelfare.gov/resources/adoption-assistance-and-child-welfare-act-1980-pl-96-272
AAG Assistant Attorney General	A lawyer who works for the state and helps in child welfare cases.	Attorney that represents Washington State agencies, including representing the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) in dependency, termination, and minor guardianship cases.	www.atg.wa.gov
ABA American Bar Association	A group that supports lawyers.	A membership organization that provides support and oversight for practicing attorneys.	www.americanbar.org/about_the_aba
ACA Associated Counsel for the Accused (Dept. of Public Defense)	A group in King County that gives free lawyers to parents in child welfare cases.	An organization in King County that provides legal representation for parents who are involved in dependency, termination, and minor guardianship proceedings and cannot afford an attorney.	https://directory.kingcounty.gov/GroupDetail.asp?GroupID=30860
ACE Adverse Childhood Experience	Scary or hard things that happen to kids when they are young.	Potentially traumatic events that occur during childhood.	www.cdc.gov/aces/about/index.html
ACES Automated Client Eligibility (Info System)	A computer system that helps decide if people can get benefits like food or medical help.	A database the State of Washington's Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) uses for determining eligibility for and issuing benefits, management support, and sharing of data between (government) agencies.	www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/eligibility-z-manual-ea-z/automated-client-eligibility-system-aces
ACT Active Community Team	A group that helps families with young kids get the services they need.	An Active Community Team (ACT) is a team developed in Early Childhood Courts (ECC) that brings community partners together to improve equitable access to comprehensive prevention, early intervention, and therapeutic services and supports for families with very young children.	www.zerotothree.org/our-work/safebabies/#:~:text=In%20the%20SBCT%20approach%2C%20teamwork,maltreatment%20in%20the%20first%20place
ADA Americans with Disabilities Act	A law that makes sure people with disabilities are treated fairly in public places.	A federal law that protects people with disabilities in many areas of public life.	www.ada.gov
ADD/ADHD Attention Deficit Disorder/ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	A condition that makes it hard for kids to focus, sit still, or think before they act.	ADHD is one of the most common neurodevelopmental disorders of childhood. It is usually first diagnosed in childhood and often lasts into adulthood. Children with ADHD may have trouble paying attention, controlling impulsive behaviors (may act without thinking about what the result will be), or be overly active.	www.cdc.gov/adhd/#:~:text=People%20with%20ADHD%20may%20have,What%20is%20ADHD%3F

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ADR Alternative Dispute Resolution	A way to solve a legal argument without going to court.	Using a neutral third party to help settle a legal disagreement.	N/A
ADS Affidavit of Diligent Search	A legal paper listing all the ways someone tried to find a person.	A sworn written statement submitted to the court that outlines all methods and attempts to locate a named individual.	N/A
AG Attorney General	A lawyer who helps the state in legal cases about kids and families.	Attorney that represents Washington State agencies, including representing the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) in dependency, termination, and minor guardianship cases.	www.atg.wa.gov
AGO Attorney General's Office	The government office that handles legal cases for Washington state.	The Office of the Attorney General is responsible for representing the state of Washington, its officials, departments, boards, commissions, and agencies. In dependency, termination, and minor guardianship cases, the Attorney General's office represents the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).	www.atg.wa.gov
AOC Administrative Office of the Court	The office that helps courts in Washington do their jobs.	Provides support for Washington's non-unified courts through a wide range of services.	www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/aocwho
AP Alleged Perpetrator	The person CPS thinks might have hurt or neglected a child.	The person identified in a Child Protective Services (CPS) referral as being responsible for the alleged child abuse or neglect.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=110-30&full=true
APPLA Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	A plan for older kids in foster care to live with someone permanently.	A term used in federal law to describe a permanent plan for dependent youth aged 16 and older that might include long-term relative or foster care.	N/A
ARY At-Risk Youth	A teenager who runs away, is hard to control, or has a drug problem.	<p>A youth under the age of 18 who meets at least one of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent from home for at least 72 hours without their parents' permission. • Is beyond parental control such that their behavior endangers the child or any other person. • Has a substance abuse problem for which there are no pending criminal charges relating to the substance abuse. 	https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=13.32A.030
ASFA Federal Adoption and Safe Families Act 1997	A law that says DCYF should try to keep kids at home if it's safe and find them a permanent home quickly if they can't stay.	A federal law that requires the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to make reasonable efforts to prevent placement of a child out of their home and achieve timely permanency for a child who is placed out of home.	www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-105publ89/pdf/PLAW-105publ89.pdf

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ATTY Attorney	See definition	Another word for a lawyer.	https://opd.wa.gov
BC Birth Certificate	A paper that proves when and where someone was born and names their parents.	A legal document that shows when and where a child was born and who the child's legal parents are.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70.58A.100
BIA Bureau of Indian Affairs	A federal office that helps Native American tribes and their governments.	A federal agency that maintains government-to-government relations with American Indian and Alaska Native people and facilitates support for tribal government and tribal people.	www.bia.gov
BRS Behavior Rehabilitation Services	A program to help kids with serious needs get support and care until they can live in a permanent place or need less help.	A temporary wrap-around support and treatment plan for youth with extreme, high-level service needs, used to safely stabilize them and assist them in achieving a permanent plan or less intensive services.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/4500-specific-services/4533-behavior-rehabilitation-services
CA Children's Administration	The part of the state that helps kids and families but is now called DCYF.	This used to be part of the State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). It has been replaced by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).	N/A
CA/N Child Abuse/ Neglect	Abuse is when someone hurts a child or does something sexual to them. Neglect is when someone does not take proper care of a child, which puts them in danger.	The injury of a child by any person or the negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for or providing care to the child. Abuse means sexual abuse or causing injury to a child under circumstances which cause harm. Neglect means an act or failure to act, or the cumulative effects of a pattern of conduct, behavior, or inaction that demonstrates a serious disregard for the consequences so great that it presents a clear and present danger to a child.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=26.44.020#:~:text={1}%20%22Abuse%20or%20neglect,conduct%20permitted%20under%20RCW%209A https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=110-30-0030
CAA Court Appointed Advocate	A volunteer who helps speak up for kids in court.	A volunteer appointed by the court to help represent the best interests of children that have been alleged to be abused or neglected.	https://wachildadvocates.org
CAC Child Advocacy Center	A place where kids who have been hurt or abused can get help and support.	Community-based, child-friendly, and trauma-informed organizations that coordinate a multidisciplinary response to child maltreatment allegations.	https://cacwa.org
CANS Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths	A way to figure out what help a child or teen needs.	An assessment used to determine the barriers and services needed for a child or youth.	www.hca.wa.gov/assets/billers-and-providers/child-adolescent-needs-strengths-cans-screening-tool.pdf

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CASA Court Appointed Special Advocates	A volunteer who helps kids in court by sharing what's best for them.	Also called Court Appointed Advocate. A volunteer appointed by the court to help represent the best interests of children that have been alleged to be abused or neglected.	https://wachildadvocates.org
CC Community Coordinator	A person who organizes things for Early Childhood Courts.	Coordinates the activities of the Early Childhood Courts.	www.wacita.org/early-childhood-courts
CCEWA Catholic Charities of Eastern WA	See definition	A faith-based charity in Eastern Washington that offers housing, mental health help, and other services.	www.cceasternwa.org
CCS Catholic Community Services	See definition	A charity that helps kids, teens, and families with things like mental health and other needs, and families, including behavioral health services.	https://ccsww.org
CCYJ Center for Children and Youth Justice	A group that works to make systems better for kids and teens.	Nonprofit organization that collaborates with partners to improve child welfare and juvenile justice systems, so all young people have what they need to learn, grow, and thrive.	https://ccyj.org/about-us/contact
CD Chemical Dependency	A problem where people can't stop using drugs or alcohol, but it can be treated.	A treatable mental health disorder that affects a person's brain and behavior, leading to their inability to control their use of substances like legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, or medications.	www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/substance-use-and-mental-health
CDMHP County-Designated Mental Health Professional	A person who decides if someone is at immediate risk of harm or needs urgent mental health or addiction treatment.	Also referred to as a designated crisis responder. This is an individual that helps to determine if an individual is an imminent risk of harming themselves or others or needs acute mental health or chemical dependency treatment.	www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers-partners/program-information-providers/designated-crisis-responders-dcr#:~:text=DCR%20contact%20list,What%20is%20a%20DCR%20authorized%20to%20do%3F,assisted%20outpatient%20behavioral%20health%20treatment.
CDP Chemical Dependency Professional	A person who helps diagnose and treat addiction and related issues.	A professional that helps individuals diagnose and treat their chemical dependency addiction and other co-occurring concerns they may have. May also be called substance use disorder professional.	https://doh.wa.gov/licenses-permits-and-certificates/professions-new-renew-or-update/substance-use-disorder-professional
CFE Comprehensive Family Evaluation	See definition	A report created by DCYF to share information with the court.	N/A
CFSR Child and Family Services Review	A federal review that checks how well state agencies are doing in child welfare.	A periodic review conducted by a federal bureau that assesses how state agencies are conducting child welfare work.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/1100-child-safety/1140-family-assessment

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CFWS Child and Family Welfare Services	A DCYF division that supports and manages cases for families in dependency proceedings.	A division of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). CFWS caseworkers provide support and case management to families who are subject to dependency proceedings.	N/A
CHET Child Health and Education Tracking	A program that checks a child's long-term needs when they first enter out-of-home care, using medical records and other information.	A program responsible for identifying each child's long-term needs at initial out-of-home placement by evaluating their well-being. This evaluation, known as a CHET screen, is created using the child's medical records, testing completed with the child, and information from the child, their parents, and their caregivers. This screen may make recommendations for supports and services that could support a child's medical, educational, cultural, and behavioral health needs.	N/A
CHINS Child in Need of Services (petition)	A court process to place a child out of home if they need help and meet specific criteria.	A legal process where either the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) or a parent can ask the court to approve out-of-home placement for a child who meets the definition of a child in need of services.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=13.32A.152 https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=13.32A.030
CHSW Children's Home Society of WA	See definition	A nonprofit that helps improve children's lives.	www.childrenshomesociety.org
CIP Court Improvement Program	See definition	A program that aims to make state dependency courts better.	https://acf.gov/cb/grant-funding/court-improvement-program
CLIP Children's Long-Term Inpatient Placement	See definition	The most intensive psychiatric treatment for children ages 5-17 in Washington state.	www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/behavioral-health-and-recovery/childrens-long-term-inpatient-program-clip
CMAF Case Management Assessment Process	See definition	A process to evaluate and provide services for young people.	www.courts.wa.gov/index.cfm?-fa=home.sub&org=wscrr&page=juvenileCourts&layout=2&parent=committee&tab=JuvenileCourts&sublink=cmaf
CME Community Minded Enterprises	See definition	A nonprofit in Spokane.	https://community-minded.org
CPA Child Placing Agency	See definition	An organization that places children in foster care or adoption.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=110-147&full=true
CPC Community Psychiatric Clinic	An organization in King County that provides mental health and addiction services.	An organization in King County that offers a complete range of behavioral health services to meet the needs of individuals and families affected by mental illness and/or chemical dependency.	https://volunteer.uwkc.org/agency/detail/?agency_id=58821

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CPP Child Parent Psychotherapy	Therapy for young children who have experienced trauma and have mental health or behavior problems.	CPP is an intervention model for children aged 0-6 who have experienced at least one traumatic event and/or are experiencing mental health, attachment, and/or behavioral problems, including posttraumatic stress disorder.	www.nctsn.org/interventions/child-parent-psychotherapy
CPS Child Protective Services	Part of DCYF that investigates child abuse or neglect and works to keep children safe.	Part of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) that investigates reports of child abuse or neglect. They will work with both parents to safely care for their child. CPS can also go to court to remove a child from the parents' care if necessary to protect the child.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-welfare-system/cps
CPT Child Protection Team	A team that provides advice to DCYF on child protection cases without a family meeting, especially if there's a risk of serious harm.	Provides confidential, multi-disciplinary consultation and recommendations to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) on cases where there will not be a Family Team Decision-making Meeting (FTDM), and there is a risk of serious or imminent harm to a young child and when there is dispute if an out-of-home placement is appropriate.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/1700-case-staffings/1740-child-protection-teams-cpt
CR Court Rule	Rules for how courts must work, which lawyers and others must follow.	Rules that control how courts operate. Attorneys and others using the court are required to follow the court rules.	N/A
CRC Crisis Residential Center	Temporary places for runaway teens and those in family conflicts.	Short-term, semi-secure facilities for runaway youth, and adolescents in conflict with their families.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/at-risk-youth/crisis-residential-centers
CSO Community Service Office	Offices where you can apply for benefits like food stamps and medical help.	The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Community Services Office is where you can apply for various benefits, including food stamps, medical and TANF benefits. There are CSO offices in various communities across Washington.	www.dshs.wa.gov/office-locations?-field_geofield_distance%5D=100&field_geofield_distance%5D=3959&field_geofield_distance%5D=&field_geofield_type_tid%5D=9651
CWLA Child Welfare League of America	A group of agencies that help children, youth, and families.	A coalition of private and public service agencies that serve children, youth, and families.	www.cwla.org/about-us
CWS Child Welfare Services	Services like in-home help, foster care, and adoption to support or replace parental care.	Social services including voluntary and in-home services, out-of-home care, case management, and adoption services which strengthen, supplement, or substitute for parental care and supervision.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=74.13.020
CWTAP Child Welfare Training & Advancement Program	A training program for social work students that forgives student loans if they work in public service for at least two years.	This is a professional training program that assists students studying social work in learning practical skills in child welfare. Under this program, students that commit to working in public service for at least two years post-graduation from a master's level program will have any student loans they acquired forgiven.	https://socialwork.uw.edu/academics/msw/traineeships/cwtap

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DAC Department of Assigned Counsel	An organization in Pierce County that provides legal help to parents who can't afford an attorney.	An organization in Pierce County that provides legal representation for parents who are involved in dependency, termination, and minor guardianship proceedings and cannot afford an attorney.	www.piercecountywa.gov/92/Assigned-Counsel-Public-Defender
DBHR Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery	A program that oversees mental health and addiction support services.	The program under the Health Care Authority that oversees programming and supports available for individuals experiencing mental health and substance use disorder challenges.	www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/behavioral-health-and-recovery
DCFS Division of Children and Family Services	DCFS was replaced by DCYF, which investigates child abuse and neglect and helps children and families.	This division was replaced by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). DCYF is a state agency that investigates claims of child abuse and neglect and provides services and case management to children and their families in Washington state.	www.dcyf.wa.gov
DCS Division of Child Support	A program that enforces child support and provides related resources.	This program within the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) oversees child support enforcement and resources in Washington state.	www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/division-child-support
DCYF Department of Children, Youth, and Families	A state agency that investigates child abuse and neglect and helps children and families.	State agency that investigates claims of child abuse and neglect and provides services and case management to children and their families in Washington state.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/about/about-us
DD Developmental Disabilities or Developmentally Disabled	A child aged 3 to 9 who isn't developing as expected in areas like physical growth, thinking skills, communication, social or emotional skills, or daily life activities, which affects their learning.	A child aged between 3 and 9 years old who does not meet developmental milestones as expected in one of the following areas and this delay negatively affects their educational performance: physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development, or adaptive development.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=392-172a-01035
DDA Developmental Disabilities Administration	A state program that helps people with developmental disabilities and their families.	A state program within the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) that provides services and supports to individuals living with a developmental disability and their families.	www.dshs.wa.gov/dda
DDD Division of Developmental Disabilities	DDD was replaced by DDA, which helps people with developmental disabilities and their families.	This division was replaced by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). DDA is a state program within the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) that provides services and supports to individuals living with a developmental disability and their families.	www.dshs.wa.gov/dda

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DEL Department of Early Learning (DCYF)	DEL is now part of DCYF and manages early learning programs for children and families.	This state agency is now a division of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and is known as the Early Learning Division. The Early Learning Division is a state office that manages programs and services for child care and preschool, and provides early childhood education and development programming for families and providers.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/gov/docs/Updated%20Early%20Learning%20Division%20Structure%20Presentation%20-%202021.23.pdf
DFP Dependency Fact-Finding Trial	A trial to decide if a child meets the definition of a dependent child, held within 75 days of filing the petition.	A trial that is held within 75 days of the filing of the dependency petition, unless there is a finding of good cause by the court, to determine whether the child meets the definition of a dependent child.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=13.34.110
DMC Deaconess Medical Center	See definition	A hospital in Spokane, Washington.	www.multicare.org/location/deaconess-hospital
DOB Date of Birth	See definition	A person's birthday, used for identity verification.	N/A
DOC Department of Corrections	A state agency that manages prisons and supervises people on parole.	A state agency that manages all state-operated adult prisons and supervises individuals who live in the community and are under DOC supervision.	www.doc.wa.gov
DOH Department of Health	See definition	A state agency that works to improve health outcomes for Washington residents.	https://doh.wa.gov
DPD Department of Public Defense	An agency in King County that provides free legal help to people who can't afford an attorney.	An agency in King County that provides legal representation to adults and youth who have been charged with a crime, or are involved in dependency, termination, or minor guardianship proceedings and cannot afford an attorney.	https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dpd
DRH Dependency Review Hearing	A court hearing held every six months to review the status of a dependency case, including court order compliance and the child's placement.	A court hearing held at least every six months to review the status of a dependency case. The court will review whether the parties have followed the court order, whether the Department has made reasonable efforts, and whether the parents have made progress towards addressing the issues that led to the child's placement in out-of-home care. The court also reviews the child's placement, visitation, whether additional services are needed, the permanent plan for the family, and other issues the parties ask the court to review. The court may schedule these hearings to occur more frequently.	www.wacita.org/benchbook/chapter-19-review-hearing/#:~:text=Uniquely%2C%20Washington%20State%20has%20dependency%20guardianships%20%28RCW%2013.34.232%29,the%20continued%20safety%20and%20viability%20of%20the%20guardianship.

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DSHS Department of Social and Health Services	The state agency that manages social programs like food stamps, Medicaid, TANF, and housing assistance.	The state agency responsible for managing social programs. DSHS is made up of several smaller divisions: Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (ALISA), Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Economic Services Administration (ESA), and Financial Services Administration (FSA). Some of the programs DSHS is responsible for are food stamps, Medicaid, TANF, and housing assistance.	www.dshs.wa.gov/about-us
DSM Diagnostic and Statistical Manual	A book that lists mental health and brain-related conditions and disorders.	A reference book on mental health and brain-related conditions and disorders, as outlined by the American Psychiatric Association (APA).	www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/dsm
DV Domestic Violence	Abusive behavior in a relationship used to gain or keep power over a partner.	Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.	www.justice.gov/ovw/domestic-violence
DWG Dependency Working Group	A group in Spokane that talks about improving the dependency process for families and professionals.	This is a work group in Spokane, WA that discusses ways to improve the dependency process for families and professionals.	N/A
EBP or EBPP Evidenced Based Programs or Evidence Based Parenting Programs	Programs that support parenting skills and child development, proven to work.	Programs offered to families to support parenting skills and knowledge around child development. These programs have been studied and are proven to work.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-welfare-providers/evidence-based-practices
ECC Early Childhood Courts	A special court for children aged 0-6 that looks at the needs of families and solves problems together.	Early Childhood Court (ECC) is a specialty court for dependent children 0-6 years of age. The specialty court team works with community partners to take a big-picture look at the needs of families and applies collaborative problem solving.	www.wacita.org/early-childhood-courts
ECEAP Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program	A Washington State program that helps children 3-4 years old (and younger in some locations) with education and assistance.	Pronounced “E-Cap”, this program is funded by Washington State for children 3 and 4 and, in some locations, infants or toddlers who are younger than 3 years old.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/eceap-headstart
ECP Exceptional Cost Foster Care Plans	A plan that lets DCYF pay more to licensed caregivers for children with complex needs in out-of-home care.	A plan that allows the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to pay licensed caregivers, caring for children in out-of-home care more than the ordinary foster care reimbursement rate. DCYF may only do so with the approval of the regional administrator where certain criteria are met, including that the child has extreme medical, emotional, or intellectual impairments, and the licensed caregivers are providing intensive supervision or extra supports to meet the child’s exceptional needs.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/4500-specific-services/4525-administrative-approvals-child-welfare

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EFC Extended Foster Care	A program for youth aged 18-21 who were in state care at 18. They can choose to keep getting foster care services like medical, dental, and help with life skills to become independent.	A program managed by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) that allows youth aged 18-21 who were a dependent of the State of Washington on their 18th birthday to voluntarily agree to continue receiving foster care services, including placement services while working on their goals towards independence. These services include medical, dental, case management services, and referrals to other community resources.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-youth/extended-foster-care-program
EHS Early Head Start	A program that helps pregnant women and children up to age three with early learning and healthy development.	A federal early learning program for pregnant women and children birth to age three. It promotes healthy outcomes, enhances the development of infants and toddlers, and promotes healthy family functioning.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/eceap-headstart
EPSDT Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment	A doctor's visit to check a child's growth and development, also called a "well-child" visit.	Also known as a "well-child" visit. This is a visit with a doctor where childhood development, ongoing medical needs, growth and development are discussed. The child or youth may also receive immunizations at these appointments, if requested and appropriate.	www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/early-and-periodic-screening-diagnostic-and-treatment/index.html www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/health-for-youth/epsdt
ER Emergency Room	See definition	A hospital area for emergencies.	N/A
ESA Economic Services Administration (DSHS)	An office that helps with food, cash, and other benefits for Washington families.	This office within the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) helps oversee programs for Washington families including food assistance, cash-grant assistance, and coordination of other benefits.	www.dshs.wa.gov/esa
ESIT Early Support for Infants and Toddlers	See definition	A federal program for children under 3 with developmental or physical disabilities.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/esit
ETP Exception to Policy	Special cases where DCYF rules might be adjusted, often for foster care.	This term refers to case-by-case situations where an exception to DCYF rules needs to be considered, most commonly related to foster care licensing rules.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/4500-specific-services/4525-administrative-approvals-child-welfare
EYC Excelsior Youth Center	See definition	A nonprofit in Spokane that provides various health and social services.	https://excelsiorwellness.org
FAE Fetal Alcohol Effects	Problems caused by alcohol exposure before birth, affecting physical and mental development.	The wide range of physical, behavioral, and cognitive impairments that occur due to alcohol exposure before birth. Fetal alcohol syndrome is a spectrum disorder.	https://fetalalcoholsyndrome.org

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
FAR Family Assessment Response (DCYF Intervention/CPS Alternative)	An alternative to CPS for low-risk cases, where DCYF checks family needs and safety without making a CPS finding.	An alternative Child Protective Services (CPS) response to allegations of abuse or neglect for families that have been assessed as having a lower risk of maltreatment towards children. Instead, during a FAR, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) evaluates the safety of the children and youth to determine what services are needed for the family. A FAR does not result in a CPS finding.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/policies-and-procedures/2332-child-protective-services-family-assessment-response
FAS Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	Problems caused by alcohol exposure before birth, affecting physical and mental development.	The wide range of physical, behavioral, and cognitive impairments that occur due to alcohol exposure before birth. Fetal alcohol syndrome is a spectrum disorder.	https://fetalalcoholsyndrome.org
FBH Frontier Behavioral Health	A healthcare organization in Spokane providing mental health services.	A behavioral healthcare services organization in Spokane.	www.fbhwa.org
FC Foster Care	See definition	Adults other than parents or guardians that are taking care of children if they can't live at home. These adults have licenses from the state or Tribes.	www.aecf.org/blog/what-is-foster-care
FCAP Foster Care Assessment Program	A program that helps assess and support children in foster care for over six months, aiming to find permanent homes.	A statewide collaboration between the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and the Harborview Abuse and Trauma Center. This program for dependent children who have been residing in out-of-home care for more than six months provides consultations and assessments for the most complex cases in the child welfare system. These consultations vary in complexity and are designed to help DCYF achieve permanency for children and youth by identifying and removing barriers to permanency, including identifying supports.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/4500-specific-services/4543-foster-care-assessment-program https://depts.washington.edu/uwhatc/PDF/progbrochures/HCSATS%20General%20Brochure.pdf
FCRN Foster Care Resource Network	See definition	An organization that helps families in Pierce and King County with basic needs.	N/A
FDTC Family Drug Treatment Court	A “drug court” for families involved in the child welfare system.	A specialty court program for families affected by substance use disorders and involved in the child welfare system. Wraparound services (or case management) providing parents and children with the skills, services, and support needed to create a safe and stable home for their families.	www.wacita.org/washington-family-treatment-courts
FFT Functional Family Therapy	See definition	Short-term therapy for families with kids aged 11-18.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/ebp-fftHandout.pdf
FH Foster Home	See definition	A person other than the child's parent or guardian who is licensed to care for that child in their home.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=110-148-1305

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
FIN Family Impact Network	A nonprofit in Spokane that connects services and partners to support families.	A nonprofit in Spokane, WA that connects providers, partners, and government entities to surround families with care.	https://familyimpactnetwork.org
FJCIIP Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Program	A program to improve courts that handle family and juvenile cases.	Program developed to reform and enhance court systems that manage family and juvenile cases. Each participating court has a FJCIIP Coordinator who facilitates dependency court improvement efforts.	www.wacita.org/fjcip
FL Family Law	Laws about family relationships, like marriage, divorce, and child custody.	Body of law regulating family relationships, including marriage and divorce, the treatment of children, and related economic matters.	www.britannica.com/topic/family-law
FOY Friends of Youth	A nonprofit in King County that provides services for children and youth, including shelter and housing.	A nonprofit in King County that provides a wide range of children and youth services, including emergency shelter, housing, and case management.	www.friendsofyouth.org/about
FP Foster Parent	A licensed person who temporarily cares for children and youth.	A licensed caregiver other than the child's parent or guardian that provides temporary care for children and youth.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=110-148-1305
FPAWS Foster Parent Alliance of Washington	See definition	A nonprofit that supports, educates, and advocates for foster parents in Washington state.	https://fpawscare.org
FPS Family Preservation Services	Services to help keep families together, provided in the home or community.	Services that can happen in someone's home or in the community. They highlight the strengths of the family and everyone in it while looking at the family's needs. This helps to strengthen and keep the family together where possible. These services can last up to six months.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/4500-specific-services/4502-intensive-family-preservation-services-ifps-family-preservation
FRS Family Reconciliation Services	A voluntary program offering short-term support to families in crisis to avoid out-of-home placement for youth.	This is a voluntary program that provides short-term support to families that need assistance managing crisis or risk of out-of-home placement with a youth runs away or otherwise engages in high-risk behaviors. These services should be provided by culturally relevant, trauma-informed community-based providers contracted with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) or provided by DCYF directly. These services are designed to assess and stabilize the family with the goal of resolving crisis and building supports, skills, and connection to community networks and resources. These services might include suicide prevention, psychiatric or other medical care, psychological care, behavioral health treatment, legal assistance, educational assistance, parent training, or assistance with conflict management or dispute resolution.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/at-risk-youth/frs

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
FTC Family Treatment Court	A special court for families with substance use issues, alternative to regular dependency court.	A specialty court program that is an alternative to dependency court for families affected by substance use disorders. This is a “drug court” for families involved in the child welfare system.	www.wacita.org/washington-family-treatment-courts
FTDM Family Team Decision Making meeting	A meeting held by DCYF to decide if a child should stay in their home or move to a new one. Parents, support people, and other professionals can attend.	A type of meeting that the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) holds when deciding whether to remove a child from their home or to change the placement of a dependent child. Parents must be invited to this meeting and can bring their support persons. Other people including service providers, caregivers for the child, and other professionals may be invited to these meetings	www.dcyf.wa.gov/1700-case-staffings/1720-family-team-decision-making-meetings
FTT Failure to Thrive	A child who doesn't grow or develop as quickly as other kids their age.	A child that fails to gain weight and/or achieve developmental milestones at the rate of same-aged peers.	www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/failure-to-thrive
FVS Family Voluntary Services	A DCYF program that parents can choose to join, offering services to keep kids safe, healthy, and well.	A voluntary Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) program for parents and guardians where they can engage in services that help them to meet the safety, health, and well-being needs of children and youth.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/policies-and-procedures/3000-family-voluntary-services-fvs
FYJP Family and Youth Justice Programs	A program that brings together judges, lawyers, and others to improve outcomes for youth and families in juvenile court.	Works with judges, lawyers, and other professionals involved in the juvenile court dependency process to create a learning community, bringing together innovative research and practical solutions to improve outcomes for youth and families.	www.wacita.org
GAL Guardian ad Litem	A court-appointed person who represents the best interests of a child or an incapacitated person in court cases.	A person chosen by the court to represent the best interests of a child or incapacitated person involved in a case in superior court. An incapacitated person is someone who may not understand the nature of the dependency case and what is at stake.	www.courts.wa.gov/committee/?fa=committee.home&committee_id=105
GC Group Care	A place where children and youth are cared for by trained staff in a facility, not in a family home.	An out-of-home placement for children and youth, where youth are not cared for in a family home setting but are cared for in a facility by trained staff. Group and residential programs are operated by private licensed agencies and provide many services, including therapeutic services for children and families, and educational and medical services for children and youth.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/group-care
H&S Health and Safety Visit	See definition	Visits by DCYF to check on the health and safety of children in out-of-home care, done monthly or twice monthly if the child is under 6.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/4400-concurrent-tanf-benefits/4420-health-and-safety-visits-children-and-youth-and-monthly-visits
HB House Bill	See definition	A bill supported by the state house of representatives.	https://leg.wa.gov/about-the-legislature/house-of-representatives

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
HFH Holy Family Hospital	See definition	A hospital in Spokane, WA.	www.providence.org/locations/wa/holy-family-hospital
HHS US Department of Health and Human Services	A federal agency that works to improve health and well-being for all Americans.	Federal agency that enhances the health and well-being of all Americans by providing effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services.	www.hhs.gov
HIPAA Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act	A federal law that protects patient health information from being shared without consent.	A federal law that required the creation of national standards to protect sensitive patient health information from being disclosed without the patient's consent or knowledge.	www.cdc.gov/phlp/php/resources/health-insurance-portability-and-accountability-act-of-1996-hipaa.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/phlp/publications/topic/hipaa.html
HRSA Health Resources and Services Administration	A federal agency that ensures fair healthcare access for high-need communities.	Federal agency that provides equitable health care to the nation's highest-need communities.	www.hrsa.gov
HS Head Start	A program for children 3-4 years old and sometimes younger, that includes education and parent support.	Head Start is a federal program for children ages 3 and 4 and, in some locations, pregnant women and children birth to age 3. This program typically includes early childhood education, parent support, and sometimes home visiting.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/eceap-headstart
HSS Home Support Specialists	People who provide various types of support to families, like community services and mental health.	This term can represent several different types of support available to families across administrative programs, including home and community services and community-based mental health. It can also be used to describe home visiting programs that are contracted with DCYF.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-dev-support-providers/home-visiting/contract-budget/home-visiting-contracting
IA Investigative Assessment	A report by CPS that describes child abuse or neglect allegations and findings after investigation.	This is the report created by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Child Protective Services (CPS) that describes the allegations of child abuse and/or neglect, and CPS's findings after their investigation, about whether the abuse or neglect occurred.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/practices-and-procedures/2540-investigative-assessment
ICPC Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children	A law that ensures safe and regulated placement of children across state lines.	This uniform law provides clear procedures for the placement of children across state lines in the United States. It helps to ensure that when children are placed in out-of-home care out of their home state jurisdiction, the placement is safe, regulated, and there is accountability should the child need to leave their placement in the receiving state.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting/kinship-caregivers/icpc

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
ICW or ICWA Indian Child Welfare Act	A law that protects Indian children and promotes stability of Indian tribes and families.	A federal law intended to protect the best interest of Indian Children and to promote stability and security of Indian tribes and families by the establishment of minimum Federal standards for the removal of Indian children and placement of such children in homes that will reflect the unique values of Indian culture.	www.bia.gov/bia/ois/dhs/icwa
IECMH Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health	The mental health of young children, including their ability to form relationships and manage emotions.	Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health, sometimes referred to as social and emotional health, is the developing capacity of the child from birth to 5 years of age to form close and secure adult and peer relationships; experience, manage, and express a full range of emotions; and explore the environment and learn—all in the context of family, community, and culture.	www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers-partners/program-information-providers/infant-early-childhood-mental-health-services
IEP Individualized Education Plan	A legal document that describes the special education services a child will receive.	A document that describes the specific special education services that a child will receive. An IEP is a legal document, and students are entitled to receive all of the services outlined in the IEP.	www.oeo.wa.gov/en/education-issues/supports-students-disabilities/individualized-education-programs-iep#:~:text=The%20individualized%20education%20program%2C%20or,services%20outlined%20in%20the%20IEP
IFF Initial Face to Face Visit	The first in-person visit with DCYF staff in response to allegations of abuse or neglect, with strict timelines for seeing the child.	This is the first contact that occurs directly (in-person) between the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) staff assigned to respond to allegations of child abuse or neglect and the child alleged to have been abused or neglected. There are policies in place that set strict timelines for when a child must be seen, and immediate danger of that child is assessed. Intakes assigned as “emergent” or “risk only” must have IFFs completed within 24 hours of the report intake being received. Non-emergent and FAR intakes require an IFF within 72 hours.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/policies-and-procedures/2310-child-protective-services-cps-initial-face-face-iff-response
IFPS Intensive Family Preservation Services	Services provided at home or in the community to reduce or avoid out-of-home placement.	Services that happen in the house or in the community that work to reduce or avoid out-of-home placement. These services must be provided by people who are specially trained.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/4500-specific-services/4502-intensive-family-preservation-services-ifps-family-preservation
IL Independent Living	A program that helps youth aged 15-22 who are or were in foster care with living skills, housing, employment, and education.	The Independent Living (IL) program is a voluntary program for youth ages 15 through 22 who are or were in foster care with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) or a tribal court. It helps with identified needs a youth has, including daily living skills, housing, employment, and education support. The term IL can also refer to older youth in extended foster care that are living in their own households, instead of with family or licensed care providers.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-youth/ilp
ILP Independent Living Plan/Program	A plan created by a youth outlining their goals and actions for independent living.	This is the plan created by a youth that outlines their goals and action steps while participating in the Independent Living Services (ILS) Program.	N/A

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
ILS Independent Living Services	A service that helps youth work on goals for independence and adulthood, providing practical knowledge and resources.	Independent Living Services is a contracted service that provides voluntary support for youth to work on goals they set to achieve autonomy and independence in adulthood. ILS focuses on skills that are more likely to be skipped in public education or multiple out-of-home placements, with the goal of providing youth with practical knowledge and resources they will need to meet their needs as adults surrounding topics such as education and job planning, finances, and community connections.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-youth/ilp
IPR Initial Progress Review	A review hearing that happens within 90 days of a dispositional order or six months of out-of-home placement.	Dependency review hearing that happens within 90 days of a dispositional order entering or six months of a child being in an out-of-home placement.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=13.34.138
ISSP Individual Service and Support Plan	An assessment of the family including composition, strengths, risks, and protective factors, provided to the court.	Now referred to as the Court Report or Case Plan. This is an assessment of the family that includes household composition, strengths, risks, and protective factors. It also includes a report of the parent's engagement in services and visitation with their child, the permanency plan proposed by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), and other information related to the family. This report or plan is provided to the court and parties in advance of court hearings.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/1100-child-safety/1150-case-plan
ITCP Infant Toddler Court Program - National	A program aimed at improving child welfare practices and early developmental health of infants and toddlers.	Known in Washington state as Baby Court or Early Childhood Courts. This program works to change child welfare practices and improve the early developmental health and well-being of infants, toddlers, and their families through the use and spread of research-based infant-toddler court teams.	https://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs-impact/early-childhood-systems/infant-toddler-court#:~:text=The%20Infant-
IYHP Independent Youth Housing Program	Helps young adults aged 18-24 with rental assistance and housing costs, who were in state or tribal foster care.	Provides rental assistance, related housing costs, and case management to young adults, ages 18-24, who have been a dependent of the state or federally recognized tribal foster care system prior to age 18.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-youth/independent-youth-housing-program
JCA Juvenile Court Administrator	Person managing the operations of a juvenile court.	Person responsible for managing the administrative operations of a juvenile court.	N/A
JO Judicial Officer	A person in the judicial system, like a judge or court commissioner.	An officer of a judicial system who performs judicial functions. Judicial officers in Washington can include court commissioners and judges.	N/A
LCS Lutheran Community Services	A nonprofit that helps low-income families with mental health, domestic violence, and substance abuse.	Nonprofit that helps low-income families and individuals meet life's basic needs by helping them deal with mental health, domestic violence, and substance abuse.	https://lcsnw.org

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
LE Law Enforcement	See definition	Another word for police officer(s) or police department.	N/A
LEP Limited English Proficiency	See definition	Someone that speaks limited English.	www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/eligibility-z-manual-ea-z/limited-english-proficiency-lep
LER Law Enforcement Referral	See definition	A report to local police made by one person or a public agency.	N/A
LF Legally Free	See definition	The legal status of a child after the rights of all their parents have been terminated.	N/A
LICWAC Local Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committee	Volunteers who advise on cases involving Indian children, ensuring cultural connections and preferred placements.	A group of volunteers representing local Indian tribes that meets to provide advice on dependency cases involving Indian children, where the child's Tribe is not involved or available. LICWAC can help make sure the child's cultural connections are maintained, that the child is in a preferred placement, and can advocate for the Indian child's best interests.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/indian-child-welfare-policies-and-procedures/10-local-indian-child-welfare-advisory-committees
LSS Lutheran Social Services	A nonprofit that helps low-income families with mental health, domestic violence, and substance abuse.	Nonprofit that helps low-income families and individuals meet life's basic needs by helping them deal with mental health, domestic violence, and substance abuse.	N/A
LT Leadership Team	See definition	A team of leaders in Early Childhood Court (ECC).	N/A
LTM Leadership Team Meeting	See definition	A meeting for the leadership team of Early Childhood Court (ECC).	N/A
MAT Medication-assisted Treatment	See Definition	A treatment plan combining medicine with counseling and support to help people overcome substance use.	https://americanaddictioncenters.org/addiction-medications
MCHB Maternal and Child Health Bureau	A federal agency working to improve the health of mothers, children, and families.	The federal agency that (MCHB) works to improve the health and well-being of America's mothers, children, and families.	https://mchb.hrsa.gov
MDC Metropolitan Development Counsel	A nonprofit in Tacoma that partners with various entities to provide services through over 40 programs.	Nonprofit located in Tacoma that partners with schools, hospitals, universities, nonprofits, and governments to service people in over 40 different programs.	https://wapartnership.org/agencies/metropolitan-development-council-mdc

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
MDT Medical Disciplinary Team	A group of professionals collaborating on quality care practices.	A Medical disciplinary team, or multi-disciplinary team refers to a group of professionals that come together to collaborate on best practices to ensure continuation of quality care.	https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7100151
MH Mental Health	See definition	Emotional, psychological, and social well-being. Also called behavioral health.	www.cdc.gov/mental-health/index.html
MHD Mental Health Division (now DBHR)	See definition	A program that provides support and programs for people that struggle with their mental health and substance use.	www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch6i4pzvxQM www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/behavioral-health-and-recovery
MHP Mental Health Professional	A person who provides mental health treatment, like a psychiatrist or psychologist.	An individual who provides mental health treatment, including a psychiatrist, psychologist, physician assistant working with a supervising psychiatrist, psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner, psychiatric nurse, social worker, mental health counselor, marriage or family therapist, certified or licensed counselor, or licensed psychological associate.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=71.05.020
MOU Memorandum of Understanding	See definition	A type of written agreement between two or more parties.	N/A
MOUD Medications for Opioid Use Disorder	See Definition	Medicines (like methadone or buprenorphine) that ease opioid cravings and withdrawal to support safe recovery.	www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers-partners/program-information-providers/medications-opioid-use-disorder-moud
MSW Master's in Social Work	See definition	An advanced degree in Social Work.	N/A
NA Narcotics Anonymous	A support group for people with addiction, using a 12-step program.	A 12-step recovery program that provides support for individuals struggling with addiction.	https://na.org
NACC National Association of Council for Children	Trains and certifies lawyers for children and families, and advocates for policy reform.	Trains and certifies attorneys who represent children, families, and agencies; supports a diverse community of professionals; and advocates for policy reform alongside young people and families.	https://naccchildlaw.org
NAPCWA National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators	Represents public child welfare agencies and works to provide children with permanent homes and support.	Represents state and local public child welfare agencies through their child welfare administrators, deputies, and other child welfare agency staff that envision a safe and loving public child welfare system to provide children with permanent homes and support in their social and emotional growth and development.	https://aphsa.org/affinity-groups/napcwa

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
NASW National Association of Social Workers	See definition	The largest professional group of social workers in the world.	www.socialworkers.org
NCIC National Crime Information Center	A federal database with criminal justice information for law enforcement.	A federal index of criminal justice information that contains extensive background information for individuals, available for federal, state, and local law enforcement entities.	https://le.fbi.gov/informational-tools/ncic
NCJFCJ National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges	A council that helps judges and courts improve the lives of children and families in juvenile and family cases.	A council that provides judges, courts and related agencies with juvenile, family and domestic violence cases with knowledge and skills to improve the lives of children and families seeking justice.	www.ncjfcj.org
NCJJ National Center for Juvenile Justice	See definition	The research arm of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ).	www.ncjj.org
NCMEC National Center for Missing and Exploited Children	The largest child protection organization in the U.S., working to find missing children and prevent exploitation.	The nation's largest child protection organization whose mission is to help find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimization.	www.missingkids.org/home
NCO No Contact Order	See definition	A court order put in place to prevent contact between two people.	https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/pao/courts-jails-legal-system/protection-orders
NDD Northwest Defenders Division	An organization in King County that provides free legal help to parents who can't afford an attorney.	An organization in King County that provides legal representation for parents who are involved in dependency, termination, and minor guardianship proceedings and cannot afford an attorney.	https://directory.kingcounty.gov/GroupDetail.asp?GroupID=30861
NICU Neonatal Intensive Care Unit	See definition	A special care unit for newborn babies who need medical help.	N/A
NOA Notice of Appearance	A document that says someone is appearing in court on their own or with a lawyer.	A document filed with the court, stating that the party is appearing on their own behalf or is represented by an attorney.	https://kcll.org
NOW Notice of Withdrawal	A request by a lawyer to stop representing a person in court.	A request filed by an attorney asking the court to dismiss them as the attorney for the person they represent.	www.courts.wa.gov
NPC Non-Parental Custody	A process that used to give custody to someone other than a parent, now replaced by Minor Guardianship.	Prior to 2021, this legal process gave custody to someone other than the parent. This legal process was replaced by a legal process called Minor Guardianship.	www.washingtonlawhelp.org/resource/non-parent-custody-is-changing-to-minor-guardianship

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
NWAE Northwest Adoption Exchange	A nonprofit that helps match children and youth with adoptive families.	A nonprofit that helps match children and youth with adoptive families.	www.nwae.org
OAA Open Adoption Agreement	A legal agreement that outlines contact between adoptive children and their biological parents after adoption.	A written legal agreement between the biological parents and intended adoptive parent(s) that outlines the method and frequency for ongoing contact, communication and/or in-person visitation between the child and their biological parent(s) after the child is adopted.	https://dcyf.wa.gov/4306-termination-parental-rights-tpr/43060-open-adoption-agreements-and-letters-intent
OCLA Office of Civil Legal Aid	A state agency that provides attorneys for children and youth in certain court cases.	An independent state judicial branch agency that is responsible for overseeing the program that provides attorneys for children and youth in dependency and termination proceedings.	https://ocla.wa.gov/about-us/programs/childrens-representation/childrens-representation-resources
ODD Oppositional Defiance Disorder	A disorder in children where they refuse to follow directions and struggle with anger and relationships.	A behavioral disorder diagnosed in childhood, which can be a result of either genetics, environment, or both. Children and youth with ODD often refuse to follow directions or present as angry, and struggle with social emotional relationships with peers, teachers, and caregivers.	www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/oppositional-defiant-disorder
OPD Office of Public Defense	A state organization that provides free legal help to parents who can't afford an attorney.	A statewide organization that contracts to provide legal representation for parents who are involved in dependency, termination, and minor guardianship proceedings and cannot afford an attorney.	https://opd.wa.gov
OPD Original Placement Date	The date when a child was last removed from their parent or guardian and placed in DCYF custody.	The date of the child's most recent removal from the child's parent or guardian and placement in the custody of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). This placement may occur as the result of a voluntary placement agreement, court order, or the child being placed in protective custody.	www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title04/0475.htm
OSPI Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction	See definition	State agency in charge of public K–12 education in Washington state.	https://ospi.k12.wa.us
OT Occupational Therapy/Therapist	Health care that helps people improve their ability to do daily tasks.	A branch of health care that helps people of all ages who have physical, sensory, or cognitive problems improve their ability to do daily tasks.	https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/occupational-therapy.html
P4P Parents 4 Parents	A program that connects experienced parents with new CPS-involved parents for support.	Parents 4 Parents connects individuals with lived experience navigating the child welfare system with individuals that are recently involved with Child Protective Services (CPS) to provide peer mentorship and support.	www.childrenshomesociety.org/parentsforparents

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
PAAY Physically Aggressive/ Assaultive Youth	Youth who show harmful or assaultive behavior that is inappropriate for their development.	Youth who show any of the following behaviors that are developmentally inappropriate or harmful to the child or others: exhibits observed assaultive behavior; a history of willfully assaulting or inflicting bodily harm; or attempting to assault or inflict bodily harm on other children or adults under circumstances where the child has the apparent ability or capability to carry out the attempted assaults including threats to use a weapon.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/4536-sexually-aggressive-youth/45362-physically-assaultiveaggressive-youth
PC Protective Custody	See definition	When law enforcement takes custody of a child without a court order.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=26.44
PCA Pierce County Alliance	See definition	An organization in Pierce County, WA that provides behavioral health services.	www.piercecountyalliance.org
PCAP Parent-Child Assistance Program	A program that helps pregnant and parenting women with substance use disorders build healthy families.	PCAP is an evidence-informed home visitation case-management model for pregnant and parenting women with substance use disorders. PCAP goals are to help mothers build healthy families and prevent future births of children exposed prenatally to alcohol and drugs.	https://pcap.psychiatry.uw.edu
PCCA Psychiatric Center for Children and Adolescents Sacred Heart Hospital	See definition	Mental health services for children and teens at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane, WA.	www.providence.org/locations/wa/sacred-heart-childrens-hospital
PCIT Parent-Child Interaction Therapy	Therapy for kids ages 2-8 that helps improve parent-child relationships and behavior.	This evidence-based therapy is for youth ages 2-8 and helps address the parent and child relationship through focusing on desired behavior. The clinician is present with the family and provides real-time feedback to the parent to coach their interactions with the child. This therapy focuses on attachment, behavioral support, and decreasing risk of child abuse and neglect.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/PPS_0061.pdf
PCJ Pierce County Jail	See definition	Jail in Pierce County, WA	www.piercecountywa.gov/1932/Pierce-County-Jail
PCJC Pierce County Juvenile Court	The court in Pierce County, WA that handles juvenile cases involving crime or need for protection/intervention.	The court in Pierce County, WA that has exclusive jurisdiction over juveniles that have committed a crime, or need protection/intervention as a result of abuse, neglect or abandonment. The juvenile dept provides probation, court, detention and adoption services.	www.piercecountywa.gov
PD Public Defender	A lawyer provided by the court for parents who can't afford one in dependency or termination cases.	An attorney assigned by the court to provide legal representation for parents in dependency or termination matters who are unable to afford an attorney.	N/A

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
PFC Partners with Families and Children	See definition	A children's advocacy center in Spokane, WA.	www.partnerswithfamilies.org
PFR Promoting First Relationships	See definition	A program that helps young children and families with development, attachment, and discipline.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/PPS_0064.pdf
PHN Public Health Nurse	Nurses who promote and protect the health of populations.	The practice of promoting and protecting the health of populations using knowledge from nursing, social, and public health sciences (APHN).	www.phnurse.org/what-is-a-phn-
PIP Performance Improvement Plan	A plan to improve child welfare outcomes created after a federal evaluation.	A plan to improve outcomes related to child safety, permanency, and well-being for a state child welfare agency. The state child welfare agency in Washington is the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). The plan is created after a federal child welfare agency assesses and evaluates the state agency.	https://dcyf.wa.gov/news/dcyf-child-welfare-program-improvement-plan-approved
PP Permanent Plan	The recommended outcome for a child, like reunification, guardianship, adoption, foster care, or independent living.	This is the recommended outcome for a dependent child or youth. Permanent plans include reunification with a parent, guardianship, adoption, long-term foster care, or independent living.	https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/4300-case-planning/4305-permanent-and-concurrent-planning
PPH Permanency Planning Hearing	A court hearing to review and decide on a child's permanent legal plan.	A court hearing where the permanent legal plan of a dependent child is reviewed, progress towards achieving that plan is reviewed, and decisions are made about where permanent placement should be. The court may also hold a dependency review hearing (DRH) at that time.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=13.34.145
PPP/Triple P Positive Parenting Program	See definition	A program that helps parents learn discipline methods and improve parent-child relationships, lasting 10-15 weeks.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-welfare-providers/evidence-based-practices
PPS Permanency Planning Staffing	A meeting held by DCYF to decide on and plan for a child's permanent placement.	A meeting held by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) that brings together the dependent child/youth, the parents, caregivers, legal parties, and others with a vested interest to make recommendations as to what the permanent plan should be, and next steps to accomplishing the permanent plan.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/1700-case-staffings/1710-shared-planning-meetings
PRT Parent's Rights Terminated	See definition	The legal process that ends the legal relationship between a parent and child.	N/A
PT Physical Therapy/Therapist	See definition	Licensed doctors who work with multiple patient populations impacted by disease, injury, and movement dysfunction.	www.apta.org/your-career/careers-in-physical-therapy/becoming-a-pt

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PTC Pre-Trial Conference	A hearing before a trial to check if the case is ready to proceed.	A hearing that occurs several weeks prior to trial where an attorney provides an update to the court regarding whether the matter is ready to proceed to trial. Different counties within the states may use different terms to refer to this hearing, including a prelim or preliminary hearing, a trial readiness hearing, and other similar terms.	https://www.spokanecounty.org/440/Pretrial-Conference
PTR Post Termination Review	A review hearing after parental rights are terminated to check on the child's placement and progress towards a permanent plan.	A dependency review hearing that occurs following termination of parental rights. The court reviews the child's placement, visitation with siblings, educational status and access to age appropriate activities, and whether the permanent plan has been achieved and what the barriers are to achieving that plan.	www.wacita.org/benchbook/chapter-19-review-hearing
PTS Perinatal Treatment Services	See definition	Mental health services for people becoming parents.	https://perinatalsupport.org/about-us
PTSD Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	See definition	A mental health disorder caused by experiencing a shocking, scary, or dangerous event.	www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/post-traumatic-stress-disorder-ptsd
QA or QI Quality Assurance or Quality Improvement	A DCYF program to improve processes and outcomes for families.	This is a program within the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) that helps to oversee the process and policies of DCYF to help improve processes within DCYF and improve the outcomes for the families it serves.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/reports/StrengtheningAgencyQACI-2022.pdf
QRTP Qualified Residential Treatment Program	Group of residential care placements for youth in out-of-home care with specific standards and court reviews.	These are a type of group or residential care (non-family home) placements for youth who are in out-of-home care. These facilities must meet specific standards, including using a trauma-informed treatment model. There are strict procedures that must be followed when a youth is placed in a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP), including review and approval by the court within 60 days of the youth's placement in the QRTP.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/practice-improvement/ffpsa/residential/qtrtp
RA Regional Administrator	See definition	A person who supervises a DCYF region. There are a total of six regions in Washington.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/COMM_0008.pdf
RAD Reactive Attachment Disorder	A disorder where children can't form secure attachments with caregivers, usually due to early relationship disruptions.	Reactive Attachment Disorder, also known as Developmental Trauma, is the term for children and youth unable to form healthy, secure attachments with primary caregivers. This occurs when there is a disruption to the parent-child relationship prior to the age of 3.	www.radadvocates.org

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
RCW Revised Code of Washington	See definition	All current laws in Washington state.	https://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw
RGC Residential Group Care	A facility where children and youth are cared for by trained staff, not in a family home.	An out-of-home placement for children and youth, where youth are not cared for in a family home setting but are cared for in a facility by trained staff. Group and residential programs are operated by private licensed agencies and provide many services, including therapeutic services for children and families, and educational and medical services for children and youth. This is also known as residential care.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/group-care
RH Receiving Home	An initial type of foster care for children who can't be placed with a relative or someone close.	Receiving care or a receiving home is an initial, emergent type of foster care that may happen when a child needs out-of-home placement and cannot be placed with a relative or fictive kin.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/4500-specific-services/4528-regular-receiving-care
RH Review Hearing	A court hearing held every six months to review a dependency case's status and progress.	A court hearing held at least every six months to review the status of a dependency case. The court will review whether the parties have followed the court order, whether the Department has made reasonable efforts, and whether the parents have made progress towards addressing the issues that led to the child's placement in out-of-home care. The court also reviews the child's placement, visitation, whether additional services are needed, the permanent plan for the family, and other issues the parties ask the court to review. The court may schedule these hearings to occur more frequently.	www.wacita.org/benchbook/chapter-19-review-hearing
RHO Review Hearing Order	See definition	A court order that summarizes the findings from a dependency review hearing.	www.wacita.org/benchbook/chapter-19-review-hearing
RLSP Responsible Living Skills Program	See definition	A program for youth aged 16-17 to learn skills to live on their own as adults.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/4500-specific-services/4544-responsible-living-skills-program
RMTS Random Moment Time Study	See definition	A tool to estimate various activities of DCYF child welfare employees.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/6000-operations/6530-random-moment-time-study
RSN Regional Service Network	Regional networks that provide necessary mental health services through licensed agencies.	RSNs, through licensed mental health agencies, provide medically necessary services to clients eligible for the Title XIX Medicaid program as well as some other persons with a diagnosed mental illness.	www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/social-services-manual/mental-health-services

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
RSO Registered Sex Offender	An adult convicted of a sex or kidnapping crime who must register with law enforcement.	An adult who has been convicted of a sex or kidnapping crime, who is required to register their address, place of employment, or school with law enforcement.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=9A.44.130#:~:text=(1)(a)%20Any%20adult,reason%20of%20insanity%20under%20chapter
RTS Rehabilitative Treatment Services (aka BRS)	See definition	Specialized treatment services for youth with behavioral health needs.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/4500-specific-services/4533-behavior-rehabilitation-services
SA Substance Abuse	A mental health disorder where a person can't control their use of substances like drugs or alcohol.	A treatable mental health disorder that affects a person's brain and behavior, leading to their inability to control their use of substances like legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, or medications.	www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/substance-use-and-mental-health
SAMHSA Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	A federal office that leads efforts to improve the nation's behavioral health.	A federal office within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation.	www.samhsa.gov
SAY Sexually Aggressive Youth	A person under 18 who has been abused and has committed a sexually aggressive or violent act.	A person under the age of 18 who has been abused and has committed a sexually aggressive act or other violent act that is sexual in nature and is either in the custody of the state or a federally recognized Indian Tribe within the state or is the subject of a dependency proceeding in state or Tribal court.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/4500-specific-services/4536-sexually-aggressive-youth
SB Senate Bill	See definition	A bill supported by the state senate office.	https://leg.wa.gov/senate/Pages/default.aspx
SBCT Safe Baby Court Team Approach	A special court program for children ages 0-3 and their families to connect with community support and services.	Specialized therapeutic court program connecting children ages 0-3 and their families with needed community support and services, with a goal of advancing health and well-being. In Washington state, these court programs are called Early Childhood Courts (ECC).	www.zerotothree.org/our-work/itcp/the-safe-babies-court-team-approach
SC Shelter Care	See definition	Temporary care with a family member, foster parent, or suitable adult.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=13.34.065#:~:text=The%20primary%20purpose%20of%20the%20shelter,a%20subsequent%20shelter%20care%20hearing%20be&text=The%20primary%20purpose%20of,shelter%20care%20hearing%20be&text=purpose%20of%20the%20shelter,a%20subsequent%20shelter%20care

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
SCH Shelter Care Hearing	The first court hearing after a child is removed from their parent or guardian, held within 72 hours, not including weekends and holidays.	The first court hearing held after a child is removed from the care of their parent, guardian, or legal custodian. The hearing must be held within 72 hours of the child's removal, not including weekends and holidays. Shelter care can also refer to the time between the shelter care hearing, and dependency fact-finding hearings, during which a shelter care hearing is held every thirty days.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=13.34.065#&:text=The%20primary%20purpose%20of%20the%20shelter,a%20subsequent%20shelter%20care%20hearing%20be&text=The%20primary%20purpose%20of,shelter%20care%20hearing%20be&text=purpose%20of%20the%20shelter,a%20subsequent%20shelter%20care
SCJA Superior Court Judges Association	See definition	An association of Superior Court judges to improve the administration of justice.	https://wasca.com
SCRAP Society of Counsel Representing Accused Persons	An organization in King County that provides free legal help to parents who can't afford an attorney.	An organization in King County that provides legal representation for parents who are involved in dependency, termination, and minor guardianship proceedings and cannot afford an attorney.	https://directory.kingcounty.gov/GroupDetail.asp?GroupID=30862
SCRC Secured Crisis Residential Center	A secure place for runaway youth, with limits on how long they can stay.	A secure building for runaway youth. If the building is a detention facility the youth may not remain there for more than five days in a row. If the building is not a detention facility, the youth may not remain there for more than fifteen days in a row.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/at-risk-youth/secure-crc
SCRSN Spokane County Regional Support Network	See definition	A service area in Eastern WA that provides supports to families.	www.dshs.wa.gov/node/8997
SHMC Sacred Heart Medical Center	See definition	A children's hospital in Spokane, WA.	www.providence.org/locations/wa/sacred-heart-medical-center
SIDS Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	The sudden, unexplained death of a baby under 1 year old.	The sudden death of a baby younger than 1 year of age that doesn't have a known cause, even after a full investigation.	https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/about/sids-definition
SNAP Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	A federal program that helps people buy food.	A federal assistance program managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that helps people with low incomes make ends meet by providing monthly benefits to buy food.	N/A
SO Sexual Offender	See definition	Someone convicted of a sexual crime.	N/A
SOP Sex Offender Program	See definition	A program that helps rehabilitate sexual offenders to prevent repeat offenses.	www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/sex-offender-treatment

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
SPM Shared Planning Meeting	A meeting held by DCYF to review a dependency case's status, with parents, support people, caregivers, and experts.	A type of meeting that DCYF has to review the status of a dependency case. Parents must be invited to this meeting and can bring their support people or person. Caregivers and other experts may be invited to these meetings. At these meetings, information is shared, case plans are created and decisions are made to support the safety, health and well-being of children.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/1700-case-staffings/1710-shared-planning-meetings
SSA Social Security Administration	See definition	A federal agency that manages retirement, disability, survivor, and family benefits, and enrolls people in Medicare.	www.ssa.gov
SSDI Social Security Disability Income	See definition	A federal benefit that provides monthly payments to people who have a disability that stops or limits their ability to work.	www.ssa.gov/disability
SSI Social Security Income	See definition	A federal benefit that gives monthly payments to people with disabilities and older adults with little or no income.	www.ssa.gov/ssi
SSI Supplemental Security Income	See definition	A federal benefit that gives monthly payments to people with disabilities and older adults with little or no income.	www.ssa.gov/ssi
SSPS Social Service Payment System	See definition	The payment system DCYF uses to pay for services that help with employment, independence, family support, and child protection.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/ssps
STD Sexually Transmitted Disease	See definition	Diseases or infections people can get through sexual contact.	www.cdc.gov/sti/about/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/std/general/default.htm
SUD Substance Use Disorder	A mental health disorder where a person can't control their use of substances like drugs or alcohol.	A treatable mental health disorder that affects a person's brain and behavior, leading to their inability to control their use of substances like legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, or medications.	www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/substance-use-and-mental-health
SW Social Work/ Worker	See definition	A professional who helps with intakes, assessments, and investigations of children at risk.	https://ofm.wa.gov/state-human-resources/compensation-job-classes/ClassifiedJobListing/Specifications/1331
TACID Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities	See definition	A community center in Tacoma that helps adults with disabilities.	https://tacid.org

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
TANF Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	See definition	A program that gives temporary cash to families in need.	www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/community-services-offices/temporary-assistance-needy-families
TIC Trauma Informed Care	See definition	Caring for others while knowing that trauma impacts all areas of life.	www.traumainformedcare.chcs.org/what-is-trauma-informed-care
TIP Trauma Informed Practice	See definition	The practice of supporting others knowing that trauma impacts all areas of life.	www.childwelfare.gov/topics/casework-practice/trauma-informed-practice/?top=243
TLP Transitional Living Program	A program that helps youth learn skills and get support to live on their own after foster care.	A program for dependent youth that gives them skills and support to prepare for living on their own after foster care.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/4300-case-planning/4310-transitioning-youth-successful-adulthood
TP Termination of Parental Rights	See definition	The legal process that ends the legal relationship between a parent and child.	www.wacita.org/benchbook/chapter-22-termination-of-parental-rightsadoption
TPCHD Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department	See definition	The health department for Pierce County, WA.	https://tpchd.org
TRP Trauma Responsive Practice	See definition	The practice of supporting others knowing that trauma impacts all areas of life.	www.childwelfare.gov/topics/casework-practice/trauma-informed-practice/?top=243
TX Treatment	See definition	Care given to address medical or behavioral health concerns.	N/A
UA Urine Analysis	See definition	A test of your urine to check for infections, conditions, or substances.	www.kidney.org/kidney-topics/urinalysis-urine-test
UCCJEA Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Enforcement Act	A law that decides which state court can make decisions in child custody cases.	A uniform law in place in all 50 states that determines jurisdiction (whether the court has authority to make decisions) in child custody cases, including which state has the authority to enter custody orders.	www.ncjfcj.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/UCCJEA_Guide_Court_Personnel_Judges_Final.pdf
UGA Uniform Guardianship Act	A Washington state law that controls guardianship orders for children.	A Washington state law that controls when and how certain guardianship orders may be entered, including guardianships for children, sometimes known as Title 11 or minor guardianships.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=11.130

Acronym	Plain Talk Definition	Definition	Resource Link
VBCN Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery	See definition	A crisis nursery/childcare center in Spokane, WA.	www.vanessabehan.org
VINELink Victim Information Notification Network	A network that gives information to crime victims and concerned citizens about offenders or cases in jails and prisons.	VINE is the nation's leading victim notification network. It allows survivors, victims of crime, and other concerned citizens to access timely and reliable information about offenders or criminal cases in U.S. jails and prisons.	www.vinelink.com/#state-selection
VLP Volunteer Lawyer's Program	See definition	A legal assistance program offered by the Spokane County Bar Association.	www.spokanebar.org/volunteer-lawyers-program
VPA Voluntary Placement Agreement	An agreement between a parent and DCYF to place a child in out-of-home care temporarily, without court involvement.	A voluntary agreement between a parent and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to place a child out of their parent's care for a short period of time, without court involvement (except where the child is an Indian child). During this time, DCYF will provide the family with services and visitation to allow the child to return safely to the parents and avoid court involvement. Either DCYF or the parent can end the agreement at any time.	www.dcyf.wa.gov/4300-case-planning/4307-voluntary-placement-agreement
WAC Washington Administrative Code	The rules followed by Washington state agencies.	A collection of all the rules followed by Washington state agencies.	https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac
WACASA Washington State CASA Program	A volunteer who helps kids in court by sharing what's best for them.	Also called Court Appointed Advocate. A volunteer appointed by the court to help represent the best interests of children that have been alleged to be abused or neglected.	https://wachildadvocates.org
WARE Washington Adoption Resources Exchange	Part of NWAEE, helping to match children with permanent families.	The Washington Adoption Resource Exchange is a part of NWAEE, or the Northwest Adoption Resource Exchange, an agency that helps to match children that need permanent families, whether that be adoption, guardianship or kinship care placement.	www.nwae.org/who-we-are
WIC Women, Infants and Children Program	See definition	A program that gives women with babies and children up to 5 years old with food, education and other supports.	www.fns.usda.gov/wic
WSCCR Washington State Center for Court Research	See definition	The research arm of the Administrative Office of the Courts.	www.courts.wa.gov/index.cfm?fa=home.sub&org=wscrcr&page=welcoming&layout=2&parent=committee&tab=Welcoming

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WSIPP Washington State Institute of Public Policy	See definition	A neutral research public policy group based in Olympia.	www.wsipp.wa.gov
WSP Washington State Patrol	The state police for Washington, ensuring public safety across the state.	A law enforcement agency that covers the entire state of Washington and helps to ensure public safety.	https://wsp.wa.gov/about-us
YFA Connections Youth Family Adult Connections	See definition	A Spokane organization providing substance abuse treatment for youth and adults.	www.yfaconnections.org
YWCA Young Women's Christian Association	An organization offering housing, hotlines, advocacy, and other services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence.	YWCA offers emergency, transitional, and long-term housing, crisis hotlines, medical and legal advocacy, and other services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence so survivors can regain stability as they rebuild their lives.	www.ywca.org
ZTT Zero to Three	See definition	An early childhood development and intervention national organization.	www.zerotothree.org