

**Fayette  
County  
Parent  
Advocacy/  
Resource  
Directory**

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# CASSP Principles

## **Child-centered:**

Services meet the individual needs of the child, consider the child's and family's context, and are developmentally appropriate, strengths-based and child specific.

## **Family-focused:**

Services recognize that the family is the primary support system for the child and participates as a full partner in all stages of the decision-making and treatment-planning process.

## **Community-based:**

Whenever possible, services are delivered in the child's home community, drawing on formal and informal resources to promote the child's successful participation in the community.

## **Multi-system:**

Service are planned in collaboration with all the child serving systems involved in a child's life.

## **Culturally competent:**

Services recognize and respect the behavior, ideas, attitudes, values, beliefs, customs, language, rituals, ceremonies and characteristics of the child's ethnic group.

## **Least restrictive/least intrusive:**

Services take place in settings that are least restrictive and least intrusive available to meet the needs of the child and family

## **Childhood Mental Illness**

- A 1999 National Alliance for Mentally Ill study shows that two out of three children and adolescents with serious emotional and mental illnesses do not receive any intervening services.
- ***Suicide*** is the third-leading cause of death among 10-24 year olds.
- ***Warning signs*** of mental illness in childhood and adolescence include a drop in school performance, worry and anxiety; inability to cope with day-to-day problems and activities; changes in sleeping and eating habits; aggression; excessive fear of getting fat, etc.
- ***21 percent of the younger generation*** suffer from a mental or emotional disorder. Left untreated, mental disorders can ruin young people's chances of obtaining a decent education and jobs, living independently, and forming stable families of their own. The cost to society in terms of lost potential runs into the billions of dollars.
- Depression in children is often difficult to detect because it manifests itself differently than in adults. Unlike the depressed adult who may report feeling sad or act depressed, the depressed child may seem tired, irritable or angry.

### **HOWEVER**

With early detection and appropriate treatment, chances are excellent that most children with mental disorders can lead productive lives as adults.

## **Acronyms**

AAA	Area Agency on Aging
ACOA	Adult Children of Alcoholics
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADAMH	Alcohol Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration - A component of the Public Health Service in the Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) (Federal).
AMI	Alliance for Mentally Ill (Support Group)
AOD	Alcohol and Other Drugs
APA	American Psychological Association
APA	American Psychiatric Association
ARC	Association for Retarded Citizens
ASM	Administrative Service Management – Services provided by MH/MR staff in order to plan a comprehensive treatment plan and to insure that appropriate services are available. Includes monitoring from intake through case closing.
BDAP	Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs (Department of Health) - The single state authority of drug and alcohol issues.
BHRS	Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services
BVR	Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation

CA	Catchment Area - A geographical area, determined by population, for the delivery of community mental health services.
CAC	Certified Addictions Counselor
CASSP	Child and Adolescent Service System Program
CH.A.D.D.	Children/Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder
C/HIP	Community/Hospital Integration Project
CHOP	Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
CIL	Center for Independent Living
CIS	Communities in Schools in Fayette County, Inc.
CLA	Community Living Arrangement
CMHC	Community Mental Health Center
CM-SS	Case Management - Self Sufficiency Program
COA	Children of Alcoholics
Commitments:	201 Voluntary Commitment
	302 Emergency Involuntary Commitment
	304 Court Hearing for Non-Emergency Involuntary Commitment
CPS	Certified Prevention Specialist
CPS	Child Protective Services

CRR	Community Residential Rehabilitation - Living arrangements for the aged and some mental health clients who are not able to live independently.
CSAP	Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (Federal)
CSP/CSS	Community Support Program/ Community Support Services
CTC	Communities That Care
CVC	Crime Victims Center
CYS	Children and Youth Services
D&A	Drug & Alcohol
DOH	Department of Health
Dom. Care	Domiciliary Care - Refers to private home living arrangements for the aged and some mental health clients who are not able to live independently.
DPW	Department of Public Welfare
DSM IV	Diagnostic Statistical Manual IV - 4th edition
DUI	Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicant
DWI	Driving While Intoxicated
EAP	Employee Assistance Program - An intervention program designed to identify employees with issues that impact on their ability to work and assist those employees in obtaining help.
EI	Early Intervention - Services for children with developmental delays from birth up to 3 years old.

EPSDT	Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment
ES	Emotional Support
FAA	Families as Allies (Support Group)
FAC	Family Advisory Council
FCCAA	Fayette County Community Action Agency
FD	Family Driven
FFEIS	Family Focused Early Intervention System - Statewide support system for families and service providers in early intervention.
FHC	Family Health Council - Uniontown Office
FPS	Family Preservation Services
FRI	Fayette Resources, Inc. - Residential Provider
FSS	Family Support Services - Supportive services/opportunities to a family that has a family member with mental health or mental retardation living within the community.
FSSR	Family Service System Reform
GAO	General Accounting Office (Federal)
GPS	General Protective Services
HAP	Housing Assistance Program
HCFA	Health Care Financing Administration (Federal)

HHHC	Highlands Hospital and Health Center
HHS	Department of Health & Human Services (Federal)
HSDF	Human Services Development Fund
HSFC	Head Start of Fayette County
HUD	Department of Housing & Urban Development (Federal)
ICF-MR	Intermediate Care Facility - Mental Retardation
ICM	Intensive Case Management - Case management services provided including 24 hour crisis for children and adult with the most severe emotional behavioral problems.
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (also called Public Law 94-142)
IEP	Individual Education Plan
IFSP	Individual Family Service Plan
I&R	Information & Referral Services
IOP	Intensive Outpatient
IST	Instructional Support Team - Elementary Level K-6 Grades
IU#1	Intermediate Unit #1 - Provides special educational/technical assistance training, technology in school districts in Fayette, Greene, and Washington Counties.
JCAHO	Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals Organization

JPO	Juvenile Probation Office
JTPA	Job Training Partnership Act
LHF	Laurel Highlands Foundation
Liability:	Source of Payment (financial)
LICC	Local Interagency Coordination Council for Early Intervention
LOF	Level of Functioning
LTC	Long-Term Care
MA	Medical Assistance
MADD	Mother's Against Drunk Driving
MCO	Managed Care Organization
Meds	Medication
MHA	Mental Health Association
MH/MR	Mental Health/Mental Retardation
MHPA	Mental Health Procedures Act (1976)
MR	Mental Retardation
NAMI	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill - A Coalition of Families
NASW	National Association for Social Workers
NIMH	National Institute of Mental Health (Federal)

OERP	Office of Education & Regional Programming (Western Psychiatric Institute & Clinic)
OJT	On-the-Job Training
OMHSAS	Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (State)
OMR	Office of Mental Retardation (State)
OP	Outpatient - Refers to treatment-oriented services provided to a client who is not admitted to a hospital, institute, or community mental health facility for 24 hour a day service.
OVR	Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
PA	Parent's Anonymous
PCH	Personal Care Home
PCPA	Pennsylvania Community Providers Association
PH	Partial Hospitalization - Refers to care provided on a regularly scheduled basis for parts of days or nights (minimum of three hours daily).
PIC	Private Industry Council
PIN	Parents Involved Network
PLF	Private Licensed Facility
POC	Plan of Care
PP & A	Pennsylvania Protection and Advocacy, Inc. (State)
PSR	Psychosocial Rehabilitation

PUNS	Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services
RC	Resource Coordination - Case management provided to children and adults with severe emotional/behavioral problems.
Rule Out or R/O:	Clinical diagnoses to be considered for further assessment
SAP	Student Assistance Program
SC	Support Coordinator
SCA	Single County Authority
SE	Sheltered Employment
SECTION 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - Prohibits the discrimination against students with handicaps, including those not covered under IDEA (Public Law 94-142). Chapter 15 - PA Education Chapter - which is responsible for compliance with Section 504 of Rehabilitation act (can include ADHD/ADD).	
SRO	Single Room Occupancy
SR	Social & Rehabilitation Services
SSBG	Social Service Block Grant - Formerly was Title XX, both mental health and mental retardation block grants.
SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
SSI	Statewide Support Initiative

TA	Technical Assistance
TSH	Torrance State Hospital
TT	Twin Trees, Inc.
VBH of PA	Value Behavioral Health of PA
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation - Refers to activities or programs designed to assist an individual, handicapped by mental disabilities, achieve his highest level of vocational adaptation.
WPIC	Western Psychiatric Institute & Clinic
WIC	Women Infant Children Program

**Consumer organization/Consumer run:**

ICAN	Involved Consumer Action Network in Pennsylvania
LEAD	Leadership Education and Advocacy Development
NMHCA	National Mental Health Consumers' Association
PMHCA	Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association
OATS	Outreach, Advocacy, and Training Service (for the homeless mentally ill)
SHARE	Self-Help and Advocacy Resource Exchange (Project SHARE launched Pennsylvania's first consumer-run drop-in center.)

**Self-Help Groups**

AA	Alcoholics Anonymous - A self help group for recovering alcoholics.
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ACOA	Adult Child of an Alcoholic
GA	Gamblers Anonymous
NA	Narcotics Anonymous
OA	Overeaters Anonymous
AI-ANON	Concerned persons affected by another person's chemical dependency
ALATEEN	Teens who are affected by chemical dependency by an adult

### **Support Groups**

ACOA	Adult Child of an Alcoholic
AMI	Alliance for Mentally Ill
CH.A.D.D.	Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders
COA	Children of Alcoholics
CSP	Consumer Support Program
Fayette Family Connection	Support Group for Families of Chronically Mentally Ill
LTF	Local Task Force on the Right to Education
PA	Parent's Anonymous
PAK	Parent's of Autistic Kids

PFFDD	Parents/Friends of Fayette Developmentally Disabled
PIN	Parents Involved Network
POTADA	Parents of Teenagers with Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Parents with Choice	A Self-Help Program for Parents Troubled by Teenage Behaviors

### **Mental Health/Mental Retardation Glossary of Terms**

**Act 212-1990** - The Pennsylvania act governing early intervention services.

**Adjustment Disorder** - Is a maladaptive reaction to an identifiable psychosocial stressor that occurs within 3 months of the stressor.

**Affect** - How a person feels at a particular time. Anger, sadness, elation and depression are all examples. Another word for affect is mood.

**Affective Disorder** - Commonly known as mood disorders.

**Agoraphobia** - Dread fear of having a panic attack while out in public with no friend or loved one nearby to help.

**Anxiety**- As a mood, anxiety is a state of tension, inner unrest, apprehension, uneasiness, or a temporary psychological imbalance.

**Attention** - The ability to concentrate on a task.

**Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)**- Behavior characterized by inappropriate degrees of inattention, impulsiveness, hyperactivity.

**Compulsions** - The repeated, senseless performance of actions accompanied by the feeling of not being able to stop the behaviors.

**Conduct Disorder**- Behavioral patterns in which the basic rights of others are violated.

**Depression** - A severe or major depression is characterized by such symptoms as: feelings of worthlessness, loss of energy and motivation, eating and sleeping disturbances, a sense of hopelessness and recurrent thoughts of death or suicidal thoughts or attempts.

**Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM IV) -**

The American Psychiatric Association (APA) publishes this manual which describes all of the diagnostic criteria and the systematic descriptions of the various disorders.

**Education For All Handicapped Children Act** - The federal law that guarantees all handicapped children the right to a free appropriate public education. It is Public Law 94-142.

**IEP** - Individualized Education Program - The written plan that describes what services the local education agency has promised to provide to your child.

**IFSP** - Individualized Family Service Plan - The written plan that describes the services a child and family will be receiving from the Early Intervention System.

**Informed Consent** - Permission for treatment based on an understanding of the purpose of treatment, common side effects or risks, consequences of withholding treatment permission, approximate length of treatment, and alternative treatment modalities.

**IPP** - Individual Program Plan. A written plan that describes what services an individual will be receiving through the developmental disabilities systems.

**Kleptomania** - An irrational impulse to steal.

**LEA** (Local Education Agency) - The county school system responsible for educating your child.

**Manic Depression** - Extreme mood changes from very happy to very sad.

**Medicaid** - A government program which pays medical costs for low income people. Recipients of SSI, GPA, AFDC, and PAA are automatically covered by Medicaid in most states.

**Medicare** - Health insurance for people sixty-five or older and for persons who have been entitled to SSDI for two years or longer.

**Neurotic** - Feeling very anxious or tense when there is no realistic explanation for it.

**Obsessions** - Ideas or thoughts that persistently intrude into consciousness.

**Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)** - A pattern of negative and hostile and defiant behavior lasting 6 months.

**Psychosomatic Diseases** - Real bodily disorders triggered by the mind, and usually preceded or worsened by stress.

**Public Law 94-142** - This act refers to the Educational for All Handicapped Children Act. It mandated public educational systems to provide educational service to all handicapped children in the least restrictive environment.

**Personality Disorder** - Persistent, characteristic, maladaptive ways of behaving.

**Phobia** - Unrealistic and irrational anxiety that is felt for an object or place

**Psychosis** - This term usually means that a person is out of touch with reality and cannot distinguish fact from fantasy.

**Reality Testing** - The ability to accurately distinguish fact from fantasy. To make sure of one's environment.

**Schizophrenia** - A major psychiatric disorder, probably with multiple causes, characterized by disturbances in content and form of thought, perception, affect, sense of self, volition, relationship to the external world, and psychomotor behavior.

**Sociopath** - A person with no sense of shame, guilt, or remorse, totally lacking any conscience.

**S.S.D.I.** - Social Security Disability Insurance. This money has been paid into the Social Security system through payroll deductions on earnings. Disabled workers are entitled to such benefits. People who become disabled prior to the age of twenty-two may collect SSDI under a parent's account, if the parent is retired, disabled, or deceased.

**S.S.I.** - Supplemental Security Income is available for low income persons who are disabled, blind, or aged. SSI is based on need, not on past earnings.

### **Children and Adolescent Psychiatric Hospitals**

Monsour Hospital - (724) 527-0222

Southwood Hospital - (412) 257-2290

Latrobe Hospital (724) 537-1650

Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (WPIC) - (412) 624-2000

Highlands Hospital and Health Center - (724) 626-2270

Chestnut Ridge Hospital - (304) 293-4000

## **Common Terms Used by the Juvenile Probation Department**

**Adjudication** - At the adjudicatory or trial stage of a delinquency proceeding the jurisdictional basis for the court's authority must be established, i.e., that the juvenile committed a delinquent act.

**Arraignment** - A formal plea of guilty or not guilty entered before the court addressing charges brought against the juvenile.

**Consent Decree** - A consent decree is a "device for placing an allegedly delinquent child under the supervision of the probation department prior to, and as an alternative to, adjudication, thus avoiding the potential stigma attached to an adjudication of delinquency." Official probation lasting 6-12 months.

**Commitment** - If it is determined at the dispositional hearing that confinement of the juvenile is necessary for his treatment, supervision, rehabilitation, and welfare, the juvenile court is authorized to commit the child to an institution, youth development center, camp, or other facility for delinquent children

**Custody** - The Juvenile Act provides the guidelines that are to be followed once a child is taken into custody. First, the officer must notify the parents of the child's apprehension and whereabouts with all reasonable speed. Then he must either: (1) release the child to his parents, or (2) deliver him to a detention or shelter care facility designated by the court if his detention is warranted. In order to determine which of these options to follow, the Act permits the "temporary detention and questioning of the child."

**Delinquency** - The Juvenile Act defines a delinquent child as a "child ten years of age or older whom the court has found to have committed a delinquent act and is in need of treatment, supervision or rehabilitation."

**Detention** - The Juvenile Act provides the purposes and the guidelines to placing a child in a detention or shelter care facility. A

child taken into custody shall not be detained or placed in shelter care prior to the hearing on the petition unless his detention or care is required to protect the person or property of others or of the child or because the child may abscond or be removed from the jurisdiction of the court or because he has no parent, guardian, or custodian or other person able to provide supervision and care for him and return him to court when required or an order for his detention or shelter care has been made by the court.

**Disposition** - At the dispositional hearing, the court must decide whether the juvenile is in need of treatment, supervision, or rehabilitation, and if so which kind of disposition is appropriate.

**Expungement** - Juveniles may seek relief under the Criminal History Record Information Act, if they meet the statutory requirements. Under this Act expungement is mandatory where (1) a complaint is not substantiated or the petition filed as a result of the complaint is dismissed other than as a result of an informal adjustment; (2) five years have lapsed since final disposition or discharge without further criminal incident; or (3) the individual is 21 years of age or older and a court orders expungement. Finally, Pennsylvania case law provides for the remedy of expungement of juvenile records where the individual successfully completes a probationary period under a consent decree and the Commonwealth is unable to show cause why the arrest record should remain on file.

**Fines and Restitution** - The "Liability for Acts" statute grants the juvenile court the authority to assess an amount that is sufficient to reimburse a victim against injury or loss (up to \$300 per person or thing or \$1000 total), against the parents of a child (or children), for the child's willful, tortious act.

**Informal Adjustment** - Where official court action does not seem necessary, but a child is in need of and desirous of some service, it is clearly in everyone's interest if informal solutions can achieve the result. The Pennsylvania Juvenile Act recognizes this and makes specific provision for the informal adjustment of cases under controlled circumstances. Under the statute, informal

adjustment is only available before a petition has been filed. The "counsel and advice" by the court officer may not extend beyond six months unless specifically extended by a court order, and then only for an additional three months

**Jurisdiction** - The juvenile court's delinquency jurisdiction under the Juvenile Act is governed by both an upper and lower age limitation. The Act defines a child as one who " (1) is under the age of 18 years; (or) (2) is under the age of 21 who committed an act of delinquency before reaching the age of 18 years." The juvenile court loses jurisdiction over an individual entirely once the person attains the age of 21. The Juvenile Act also sets a lower age limit upon the juvenile court's exercise of delinquency jurisdiction. Only a child ten years of age or older who commits a delinquent act (crime) would come within the juvenile court's dependency jurisdiction. The Juvenile Act provides three exceptions to the operation of its delinquency jurisdiction. First, a delinquent act is defined as not including murder. Second, summary offenses are excluded unless the child fails to pay the fine ordered by the court which found the child guilty of the summary offense. Summary offenses may be used in juvenile court, however, when they are an element of some other offense coming with the court's jurisdiction. The third exclusion from the juvenile court's delinquency jurisdiction involves children under the age of 10 who commit crimes.

**Juvenile Courts** - Juvenile courts were first established in Pennsylvania in 1901. Since that time there have been several statutory modifications and revisions of the original Juvenile Act that have substantially altered the power of the court and its methods of operation.

**Pennsylvania Juvenile Courts** - The present Juvenile Act confers jurisdiction over all matters contained in it in the court of common pleas. Strictly speaking, there are no "juvenile courts" in Pennsylvania as there are in some states, since they are not provided for by either the constitution or legislation. Nevertheless, the practice has developed of referring to the court of common pleas when it is hearing cases under the Juvenile Act as a juvenile court.

**Petition** - The petition alleging delinquency must contain the name, age, and residence address of the child on whose behalf the petition is brought. The Juvenile Act also requires inclusion of the names and residence address, if known to the petitioner, of the parents, guardian, or the custodian of the child. A petition alleging delinquency may be brought by any person including a law enforcement officer. The petitioner may state his allegations upon information and belief but the petition itself must be verified

**Probation** - One of the dispositional alternatives available to the juvenile court is "placing the child on probation under the supervision of the probation officer of the court ... under conditions and limitations the court prescribes."

**Probation Violation** - The Juvenile Act recognizes probation violations in its provision for a child to be taken into custody when there are reasonable grounds to believe that the child has violated conditions of his probation. The Act does not enunciate the rules and procedures to be applied in instances of probation revocation.

**Release/Review of Commitment** - The Pennsylvania Juvenile Act grants the courts broad supervisory powers governing juvenile commitments. The initial commitment of a delinquent child may be extended or modified only upon judicial approval. The court may approve extensions or modifications if it appears after hearing that the changes will effectuate the original purpose for which the order was entered. The Act also requires the committing court to conduct semi-annual reviews of each commitment and to hold a dispositional review hearing at least every nine months.

**Transfer** – The Juvenile Act provides three exceptions to the operation of its delinquency jurisdiction. First, a delinquent act is defined as not including murder. If a child is charged with murder he must be initially proceeded against in criminal court. The juvenile court, however, does possess exclusive jurisdiction over children charged with other forms of criminal homicide. If prosecution of a child for murder has begun in criminal court the case may be transferred to the juvenile court. The decision on whether such a

transfer should be made is in the discretion of the criminal court, and the burden is on the juvenile to show that he does not belong in the criminal court because he is amendable to juvenile court treatment. In addition, if a child charged with murder in criminal court is convicted of a lesser crime the case may be transferred to the juvenile court for disposition. As noted under **Jurisdiction**, secondly, summary offenses are excluded from jurisdiction and thirdly, children under the age of ten who commit crimes.

**Waiver of Individual Rights** - Before any questions are asked of a child charged with delinquency, the following statement must be read to the child and his parents or interested adult: You have the right to remain silent and anything you say can be used as evidence against you if you go to Court. You have the right to the advice of a lawyer before questioning and the presence of a lawyer here with you during questioning. If you do not have the money to hire a lawyer, the Court will appoint one for you if you wish. You have the right to withdraw from questioning at any time.

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### **Children And Youth Commonly Used Terms**

**Act 33 Clearance:** a Pennsylvania law that affects people who work with children. It requires people who are interested in becoming caretakers for or employees working with children to determine if there are reports of child abuse against them. The law also requires clearance through the Pennsylvania State Police to determine if the person has a criminal history record.

**Act 34 Clearance:** a Pennsylvania law that affects people who work with children. It requires people who are interested in working with children to determine if there is a history of arrests or police involvement.

**Adjudication:** a court decision. For a foster child, adjudication is a decision that he or she is dependent or delinquent.

**Adoption Assistance:** financial aid that can be available to families who adopt children with special medical, physical or emotional needs.

**County Assistance Office (CAO):** The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare in each county.

**CASSP:** The Child and Adolescent Service System Program; a national initiative from the Office of Mental Health. CASSP addresses the needs of children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbances who are involved in two or more agencies. CASSP coordinates services among these agencies, pooling resources to serve the child most appropriately.

**Child:** an individual who (1) is under 18 years of age (2) is under 21 years of age, committed an act of delinquency before reaching 18 years of age and remains under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court or (3) is under 21 years of age, was adjudicated dependent before reaching 18 years of age, and while engaged in a course of instruction or treatment, requests the court to retain jurisdiction until the course has been completed.

**Child Abuse:**

(1) The term “child abuse” shall mean any of the following:

(i) Any recent act or failure to act by a perpetrator which causes nonaccidental serious physical injury to a child under 18 years of age.

(ii) An act or failure to act by a perpetrator which causes nonaccidental serious mental injury to or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child under 18 years of age.

(iii) Any recent act, failure to act or series of such acts or failures to act by a perpetrator which creates an imminent risk of serious physical injury to or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child under 18 years of age.

(iv) Serious physical neglect by a perpetrator constituting prolonged or repeated lack of supervision or the failure to provide the essentials of life, including adequate medical care, which endangers a child’s life or development or impairs the child’s functioning.

- (2) No child shall be deemed to be physically or mentally abused based on injuries that result solely from environmental factors that are beyond the control of the parent or person responsible for the child's welfare, such as inadequate housing, furnishing, income, clothing and medical care.
- (3) If, upon investigation, the county agency determines that a child has not been provided needed medical or surgical care because of seriously held religious beliefs of the child's parents, guardian or person responsible for the child's welfare, which beliefs are consistent with those of a bona fide religion, the child shall not be deemed to be physically or mentally abused. The county agency shall closely monitor the child and shall seek court-ordered medical intervention when the lack of medical or surgical care threatens the child's life or long-term health. In cases involving religious circumstances, all correspondence with a subject of the report and the records of the Department of Public Welfare and the county agency shall not reference "child abuse" and shall acknowledge the religious basis for the child's condition, and the family shall be referred to general protective services, if appropriate.

**Child Line:** Pennsylvania's toll-free telephone hotline to report suspected child abuse and neglect. The telephone number is 1-800-932-0313.

**Child Protective Services (CPS):** services provided by county children and youth agencies to abused and neglected children and their families

**Corporal Punishment:** physical punishment such as spanking. It is strictly prohibited by foster family care agency regulations.

**County Children & Youth Agency (C&Y):** the public agency that works with dependent families. The mission of the agency is to help the family avoid abuse and neglect and protect children from further harm.

**Drug & Alcohol (D&A):** drug and alcohol treatment services

**Dependent Child:** a child adjudicated by a court because the child's family is unable to provide adequate care. A court may find that a child dependent for several reasons including: abuse, neglect, failure to attend school, failure to obey parental commands or abandonment.

**Delinquent Child:** a child, ten years old or older has committed a delinquent act and is found by the court to need supervision or rehabilitation. A delinquent act is any act that is a crime if committed by an adult.

**Department of Public Welfare (DPW):** the state agency that regulates and monitors child welfare services in Pennsylvania. The department also provides a wide range of other human service programs for children and adults.

**Disposition:** the part of a court hearing in which the court specifies the type of social service the child will receive.

**Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT):** a DPW medical assistance program that helps parents manage the preventive health care of children by scheduling check-ups, hearing and eye tests, lead screenings, immunizations, and other preventive testing and treatment. The program is open to any medical assistance-eligible child up to age 21.

**Expunge:** to strike out or obliterate entirely so that the stricken information may not be stored, identified, or later recovered by any means; mechanical, electronic, or otherwise.

**Family Members:** Spouses, parents and children, or other persons related by consanguinity or affinity. The term does not include foster parents, foster children and paramours.

**Family Reunification:** includes all efforts by the service delivery team to reunite children with their families.

**Family Service Plan (FSP):** a plan that is part of each family case record. It is prepared by the county agency and the family and includes information about the family, and the kinds of services that will be provided to meet those goals.

**Family Service Plan Placement Amendment:** an amendment to the FSP that is completed when a child is placed in foster or other substitute care. The plan includes a statement of goals that the agency, the family, the placement agency (if other than CYC), the child, and others agree to work while the child is in agency custody.

**Foster Care:** substitute care with a family providing care and supervision for a child placed in their home. The foster family provides parental care and supervision, and works with the agency staff, and at times, natural parents, to help the child achieve a permanent family.

**Founded Report:** disposition of a report made under the CPS Law which there has been a judicial adjudication or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, based on a finding that a child who is a subject of the report has been abused.

**Imminent Risk:** any recent act, failure to act or series of such acts of failures to act by a perpetrator which creates an imminent risk of serious physical injury or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child under 18 years of age.

**Independent Living Program (IL):** programs that teach youths, 16 years or older, the life skills they will need to live on their own. Services are often provided to older dependent or delinquent youths who are unable to return to their families. The goal of the program – independence and productivity are defined by the conditions of self-supporting employment, enrollment in educational or vocational training, and a stable place of residence after discharge.

**Indicated Report:** a report made under the CPS law and regulations if an investigation by the CPS determines that substantial evidence of the alleged abuse exists based on one of the following:

available medical evidence or an admission of the acts of abuse by the perpetrator.

**Judicial and Dispositional Review:** a child welfare case review done at least every six months in juvenile court by a judge.

**Medical Evidence:** Evidence provided by a licensed health care professional, including but not limited to a physician, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, psychiatrist, or licensed psychologist.

**Office of Children, Youth, and Families (OCYS):** the office within the PA Department of Public Welfare that is responsible for funding and regulating public and private services for dependent and delinquent youths.

**Paramour:** a person who is engaged in an ongoing intimate relationship with a parent of the child but is not married to and does not necessarily reside with the child's parent.

**Parent:** a biological, adoptive parent, or legal guardian.

**Passive Physical Restraint:** the least amount of direct physical contact required to prevent immediate harm to the child or others.

**Perpetrator:** a parent of a child, a person responsible for the welfare of a child, an individual residing in the same home as the child, or a paramour of the child's parent, who has committed abuse.

**Person responsible for the child's welfare:** includes a person who provides permanent or temporary care, supervision, mental health diagnosis or treatment, training or control of a child in lieu of parental care, supervision and control. This includes babysitters, stepparents, day care staff, residential childcare staff, counselors, therapists, psychologists, and psychiatrists who are employed in public or private mental health agencies or who are self-employed (including both unlicensed practitioners). Excluded are employees or persons providing services or programs in any public services or programs in any public or private school, intermediate unit or vocational-technical school. - 26 -

**Petition:** a request for court action filed, most often, by the county children and youth agency stating the facts in the case. A petition must be filed in order for the agency to be awarded custody of the child.

**Recent Acts or Omissions:** Acts or omissions committed within two years of a report to ChildLine or the county agency. The two-year time limit applies only to allegations of nonaccidental serious physical injury and imminent risk of serious physical injury or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. The two-year limit does apply to reports of serious mental injury, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation or serious neglect.

**Required (Mandated) Reporters:** Persons who, in the course of their employment, occupation or practice of their profession come into contact with children and have reason to believe, on the basis of their medical, professional, or other training and experience, that a child coming before them in their professional or official capacity is a victim of child abuse.

**Respite Care:** care provided by short-term substitute caregivers, where available.

**Serious Bodily Injury:** refers to bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death or causes serious permanent disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of an organ or other part of the body.

**Serious Mental Injury:** A psychological condition as diagnosed by a physician or licensed psychologist caused by the acts or omissions including the refusal of appropriate treatment of the perpetrator which does one of the following: (a) renders the child chronically and severely anxious, agitated, depressed, socially withdrawn, psychotic, or in reasonable fear that his life or safety is threatened. (b) seriously interferes with the child's ability to accomplish age appropriate developmental and social tasks.

**Serious Physical Injury:** an injury caused by the acts or omissions

of a perpetrator which does one of the following: (a) causes the child severe pain (b) significantly impairs the child's physical functioning, either temporarily or permanently (c) is accompanied by physical evidence of a continuous pattern of separate, unexplained injuries to the child.

**Serious Physical Neglect:** a physical condition caused by the acts or omissions of a perpetrator which endangers the child's life or development or impairs his functioning and is the result of one of the following (a) prolonged or repeated lack of supervision (b) failure to provide the essentials of life, including adequate medical care.

**Sexual Abuse:** the employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement or coercion of any child to engage in or assist any other person to engage in any sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction, including photographing, videotaping, computer depicting or filming of any sexually explicit conduct or the rape, sexual assault, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, aggravated indecent assault, molestation, incest, indecent exposure, prostitution, statutory sexual assault or other form of sexual exploitation of children.

**Statewide Central Registry:** a register of child abuse, established in the Department, which consists of founded and indicated reports of child abuse.

**Subjects of the Report:** all persons listed in the report of child abuse to ChildLine, including, his parent, guardian, other person responsible or other perpetrator also named in the report .

**Unfounded Report:** any report made under the CPS law and regulations, unless the report is a founded report or unless an investigation by the appropriate CPS determines that the report is an indicated report.

## **Community Resources**

Adult Learning Center - (724) 437-9816

Autism Group— meets the fourth Tuesday of each month (except for December) at 6:30 PM at Early Head Start, Uniontown. Contact Lorine Sproul (724) 430-9824.

Bereavement Support Group—sponsored by Ferguson Funeral Home - second Monday at 7:00 PM, Fayette County Health Center - (724) 439-2577

Career Link, Fayette - (724) 434-5627

Catholic Charities - (724) 439-3531

Connellsville Ministerial Assoc.: Reverend Witt - (724) 626-1120

Child Care Information Services - 1-800-443-0888  
Subsidized child care funding for working parents and parents in training programs.

Crime Victims Center - (724) 438-1470

Department of Public Welfare - (724) 439-7015

Domestic Violence Services - (724) 439-9500

Early Intervention Local Coordinating Council (LICC) - meeting times vary, please contact (724) 430-1370 for more info.

East End Community Center - (724) 437-1660

Easter Seal Society of Western Pennsylvania  
Fayette Division - (724) 437-4047

Eating Disorders - (724) 439-2510



Pennsylvania Department of Health - (724) 439-7400

Parents Involved Network (PIN) - (724) 438-7551

Pregnancy Support - (724) 628-5555

Private Industry Council (PIC) - (724) 437-2590  
Education Services, Job Search, SPOC, On the Job Training

Project Forward - Career, admissions, and financial aid information.  
Counseling for post-secondary education. Assists drop-outs  
to re-enter educational programs. (724) 837-6199

Salvation Army - (724) 437-2031

Social Security Administration Office - (724) 439-3544 or 1-800-  
772-1213

St. Vincent DePaul Store - (724) 439-9188

Student Assistance Program:  
Michael Kavan, MHMR - (724) 430-1370

Touchstone: (724) 329-1370  
Art classes for children & adults - mostly summer programs,  
some in schools during the school year.

Uniontown Chamber of Commerce - (724) 437-4571

Uniontown Ministerial Association - (724) 438-7741

### **Community Providers**

Anchor House/Adelphoi Village - (724) 628-4386

ARC of Fayette County - (724) 438-8416  
Early Intervention

Adult Training Facility (ATF)  
Transitional Employment  
Supportive Employment  
Social Services Transition

Catholic Charities - (724) 439-3531

Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services Inc. - (724) 437-0729  
Counseling  
Psychiatric Care  
Partial Hospitalization  
Community-Based Services

Communities in Schools - (724) 437-2540

Southwest Behavioral Care, Inc. - (724) 684-9000  
Counseling  
Psychiatric Care  
Services to Individuals with Mental Retardation  
Early Intervention Services

Early Head Start - (724) 434-5250

ECHO Child Development Center -  
(724) 583-2780 - (724) 628-2710 -  
(724) 438-1655 - (724) 785-9007  
Pre-School, Private Kindergarten, Daycare, School Age  
Latch Key and Infant/Toddler Care

Fayette County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc. - (724) 438-3576  
or (724) 628-9010

Fayette Day Treatment (Adelphoi Village) - (724) 626-9579

Fayette Resources, Inc—(724) 437-6461

Goodwill Industries of Fayette County - (724) 437-9878

Head Start of Fayette County - (724) 430-4818  
Intermediate Unit 1 (IU#1) - 1-800-328-6481  
Juvenile Probation Office (JPO) - (724) 430-1223  
Mental Health/Mental Retardation (MHMR) - (724) 430-1370  
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) - (724) 439-7465  
Pressley Ridge Family Preservation Program - (724) 430-6000  
Success Academy, Uniontown Mall -(724) 439-3911  
Southwestern PA Agency on Aging - 1-800-537-2424  
Value Behavioral Health of PA - 1-877-688-5972

### **Universities**

California University - (724) 983-4000  
Upward Bound - (724) 983-4470  
Penn State - Fayette Campus: (724) 430-4210  
Summer Programs for Children - Continuing Education

### **Public Libraries**

Carnegie Free Library (Connellsville) -(724) 628-1380  
German-Masontown Public Library - (724) 583-7030  
Point Marion Public Library - (724) 725-9553  
Uniontown Public Library - (724) 437-1165

## **YMCA**

Connellsville YMCA Child Care Center - (724) 628-4929

Connellsville YMCA - (724) 628-0570

Uniontown YMCA - (724) 438-2584

## **Youth Groups**

Boy Scouts (Greensburg) main office - (724) 837-1630

Calvary Baptist Church Youth Group - Brent Johnson - (724) 439-0301

Dawson Baptist Church Youth Group: (724) 529-7977

Girl Scouts - 1-800-248-3355

MADD, Fayette - (Mother's Against Drunk Driving) -  
(724) 438-1470 or (724) 437-3737

Teens for Christ - (724) 439-1011

Third Presbyterian Church Uniontown Youth Group -  
(724)438-2529

## **Fayette County BHRS Providers**

Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services (724) 437-1554

- Also provides Outpatient Services

ARC, Fayette (724) 438-8416

- MR Services Only

ACS Psychological Associates (724) 438-2342

- Also provides Outpatient Services

Alliance Health	(724)430-0988
The Stern Center for Developmental and Behavioral Health	(724) 626-9941
Connellsville Counseling and Psychological Services	(724) 626-8420
WJS Psychological	(724) 430-9668
Family Behavioral Resources	(724) 626-1833
Southwestern Psychological Services	(724) 966-7733

### **HANDY NUMBERS**

ABOARD (Austim)	1-800-827-9385
Child Abuse Hotline	1-800-932-0313
Child Find (Missing Children)	1-800-431-5005
Child Help (Abused Children)	1-800-422-4453
Childline (Report Child Abuse)	1-800-932-0313
Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services, Inc.	(724) 437-0729
** (724) 437-1003 (after 5 p.m.) **	
New Directions (Partial Hospital Program)	(724) 736-0764
Children & Youth Services (of Fayette County)	(724) 430-1283
Communities in Schools	(724) 437-2540
Commissioners Office (of Fayette County)	(724) 437-4525
Community Action	(724) 437-8180
Crime Victim Center (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)	(724) 438-1470
24 hour hotline	(724) 437-3737
Department of Health (of Fayette County)	(724) 439-7400
Domestic Violence Services	(724) 437-2530
Drugs (Just Say No)	1-800-258-2766
Drug & Alcohol Information	1-800-932-0912

Easter Seal Society	(724) 437-4047
Epilepsy Society of Western PA	1-800-800-6776
Energy Assistance/Energy Crisis	(724) 439-7015
Family Connections Parent Support Group	(724) 438-9042
Fayette County Community Action Information and Referral Toll Free 1-800-427-4636 or (724) 437-6050	
Fayette County Drug & Alcohol Commission	(724) 438-3576
Governor's Hotline	1-800-932-0784
Handicapped Program Info.	1-800-424-8567
Health Information	1-800-336-4797
HOPE Network	(724) 438-5520
	Emergency (724) 437-1003
Housing Authority (of Fayette County)	(724) 437-1584
Legal Aid Society (of Southwestern PA)	(724) 439-3591
Medicare Information	1-800-382-1274
Missing Children Hotline	1-800-843-5678
NAMI Pennsylvania (Mental Illness)	1-800-223-0500
National Runaway Switchboard	1-800-621-4000
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation	(724) 439-7465
PA Public Utilities Commission	1-800-782-1110
Parents Anonymous	1-800-225-7223 or 1-800-932-0313
Parents Anonymous	(724) 437-3737
Parent Education Network	1-800-522-5827
Parents Involved Network (PIN)	(724) 438-7551
Parents Without Partners (Pittsburgh #)	(412) 846-9242
Penn State Cooperative Ext.	(724) 438-0111
Pennsylvania State Police	(724) 439-7111
Rape Center (PCAR)	1-800-692-7445
Runaway Counseling Hotline	1-800-621-4000
Runaway Hotline	1-800-231-6946
Safe and Sound	(412) 234-0831
Social Security	1-800-234-5772

Southwest Regional Local Task Force on the Right to Education	1-800-328-6481
State Health Hotline	1-800-692-7254
Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN)	1-800-585-7926
Teen Health Corps	(724) 439-3911
Teenage Hotline	1-800-4-A-CHILD
The Special Kids Network	1-800-986-4550
Victim/Witness Services (of Fayette County)	(724) 438-2970
Youth Suicide Hotline	(202) 429-0190

**Phone numbers and agencies available to assist parents/  
advocates concerning educational rights and services  
for children requiring special education and/or  
individual education plans.**

Parents Involved Network (PIN) - Barb Keefer - (724) 438-7551

The Special Education Consult Line  
1-800-879-2301

- Help for families and advocates of children with needs about:
- \* Special education regulations
  - \* The complaint system

Statewide Task Force on the Right to Education  
1-800-360-7282

Local Southwestern Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF)  
Intermediate Unit #1- 1-800-328-6481

Pennsylvania Protection and Advocacy, Inc. (PP&A)  
1-800-693-7443

Education Law Center  
1001 Law and Finance Building  
429 Fourth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
(412) 391-5225

Education Law Center  
Suite 610, 801 Arch St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 238-6907

**Other interagency groups assisting families, educators, and agencies to collaboratively work together to serve children/adolescents with special and individual needs are:**

IU#1 Local Transition Coordination Council (LTCC)

Assists students, ages 14-16 years and older, in the transition from school to adult life and work.

Contact: Marilyn Nairn, IU#1

1-800-328-6481

For early intervention services, contact MH/MR (724) 430-1370

If other options are not successful call:

**CORDERO HOTLINE 1-800-222-7373**

If you have a student with a disability and...

- \* the school district feels that it cannot appropriately educate the student using current district resources...

- \* the student has been waiting for more than 30 days for an appropriate educational placement—or you fear that the student may have to wait that long...

- \* the student has an IEP that is not being implemented because of an inability to find the right placement or related service...

- \* the student's IEP meeting has not been held or completed because of anticipated problems in carrying out a needed program...

- \* the student is receiving instruction at home only because the school district does not know what else to do...or

- \* you are having trouble finding the right package of education services and other student services — such as mental health, mental retardation, or children and youth agency services.

## **Glossary of Special Education Terms**

**Appropriate Program** - A free program of education and related services that is designed to meet the child's special needs and allows the child to make meaningful progress in school.

**Due Process** - The procedures that parents may use to disagree with school officials' decisions. The due process procedures include right to written notice, right to a pre-hearing conference, and right to a formal hearing and appeals.

**Education of the Handicapped Act (P.L. 64-142)** - is the main federal law in the special education area for students who have disabilities.

**Exceptional** - Students who have a disability (sometimes called "eligible students") or who are gifted, and because of their needs require a special education program. The term include children with mental, emotional, sensory, and health impairments, and children with physical disabilities.

**IDEA** - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Also called Public Law 94-142.

**IEP** - Individualized Education Program. A written form that spells out the specific programs and services the child will receive. The IEP also contains goals and objectives for the child, the date services are to start, and other information about the program.

**IST** - Instructional Support Team. A team of school staff that includes a specially trained support teacher. The IST does an initial screening of children thought to be exceptional to see if they can be helped within regular education if some changes are made to their programs. The IST system is being phased into districts and intermediate units.

**MDT** - Multi-Disciplinary Team. A team of school staff and the child's parents that reviews all formal testing of a child and all other evaluation material. The MDT must issue a written report

recommending whether the child is exceptional and, if so, the types of programs and services needed.

**Mediation** - A voluntary system that parents and school officials can use to work out disagreements over a child's exceptionality, program, or placement. Using mediation is free and does not affect the right to use the due process procedures.

**NOEP**- Notice of Educational Placement. The form lists the recommended placement for the child and explains parents' rights to agree or disagree with the recommendation and to use the due process hearing and appeal procedures.

**Related Services** - Transportation and other support services, such as physical, speech, and occupational therapy, that are needed to help a child benefit from or have access to the school program. All related services needed must be provided without charge.

**Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973** - is a "civil rights" law that prohibits discrimination against otherwise qualified people on the basis of handicap. Section 504 also requires public schools to provide children with handicaps a free appropriate education. The law applies to all recipients of federal funds.

**Chapter 15** - PA Education Chapter - which is responsible for compliance with Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act (can include ADHD/ADD).

### **Parent Support/Advocacy Group**

**Parents Involved Network (PIN)** is a parent support and advocacy group for parents of children with severe emotional/behavioral problems.

For more information contact Barb Keefer, Parent Advocate, at (724) 438-7551

**Parents with Choices** is a self-help program for parents troubled by teenage behaviors. Meetings are held each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.,

Trinity Evangelica Lutheran Church, 26 East Fairview,  
Connellsville, (724) 628-7920.

**Mental Health Association of Fayette County.**

For more information call 438-6738

**Fayette Family Connection AMI (Alliance for the Mentally Ill)** is a support group for families and friends of people who are mentally ill.

For more information contact Carmella Hardy at 277-8173.

### **Advocacy and Referral Resources**

**Disabilities Law Project - (215) 238-8070**

Provides free legal assistance to children and adults who are developmentally disabled, including children with serious mental health problems, in cases involving discrimination on the basis of handicap or access to services.

**Education Law Center - PA - (215) 238-6970**

Provides advice and direct legal representation in all educational issues affecting children including special education. Publishes a manual, *The Right to Special Education in Pennsylvania*, which explains the special education process and is free to parents. This is available in English or Spanish.

**The Health Law Project - 1-800-274-3258**

Advocates for access to consumer-directed health services for persons with disabilities. Provides information about the Medical Assistance application process.

**The Juvenile Law Center - 1-800-875-8887**

Provides free legal representation to a limited number of children who are subject to proceedings under the Juvenile Act (dependent or delinquent).

**Parent Education Network - 1-800-522-5827**

Provides technical assistance, consultation, and referral for

assistance about special education within parents' area.

**Parents Involved Network (PIN) - 1-800-688-4226**

Provides support, advocacy, information, and referral for parents of children and adolescents who have emotional or behavior disorders.

**Pennsylvania Protection and Advocacy - 1-800-692-7443**

A statewide advocacy organization which provides information and advocacy services for persons with disabilities.



# **SPECIAL NOTES**

**Revised 4/05**