

Glossary

Adjudication (in dependency cases) - A hearing where the Judge decides if the child is not taken care of by their parents and if the child needs extra help from the Children and Youth Agency. This makes sure parents participate in programs that help the child and family.

Adjudication of Delinquency - A child who is 10 years old and has not reached the age of 18 found guilty of a misdemeanor or felony offense. Child will be supervised by juvenile probation.

Affidavit - A written or printed statement made under oath.

Appeal - A court hearing in which a case is heard by a higher court for review of a lower court. The higher court could change the outcome of the lower court's decision.

Bench - The place where a judge sits in court.

Bench Warrant - A piece of paper that a judge signs that allows law enforcement to arrest someone.

Child's attorney (or child's counsel) - an attorney/lawyer who represents the legal interests of the child. Argues for what the child wants.

Court Order - A printed document that is issued by a judge with his or her decision. A judge could hold you in contempt and give you a fine/jail for not following court order.

Crisis Rapid Response Meeting (CRRM) - A meeting with family, friends, and other people after a troubling event in the family. This meeting happens right away or within 24 hours of the event.

Custody - Legally caring for a child. Physical custody means the child is in the physical care of someone, and legal custody is the legal right to make decisions about medical, religious and education in the best interest of a child.

Custody Modification - Paper completed and filed to make a change to a custody order.

Custody Petition - Paper completed and filed with the Courts for custody.

Dependency - A child who is not being properly taken care of by parents and needs Children and Youth and the court to help care for the child.

Disposition - This hearing takes place after the adjudication hearing, but can happen on the same day and at the same time. It focuses on helping the child and creating goals that need to be met. They judge what the child's needs are, available and create a plan to meet the child's needs and the best interests of the child.

Dispositional Hearing - A hearing to help a Judge find out if a juvenile (child) needs treatment or supervision.

Exhibit - A document used in court as evidence.

Family Finding (FF) - A process to locate relatives, kin and other supports to your family. They may be involved in meetings for your family (and sometimes in Court).

Felony- A crime of high seriousness. The punishment for these crimes could be up to 30 years in prison and \$250,000 fine. The minimum punishment would be 5 years. If you are convicted of a felony, you are no longer allowed to carry, buy, or handle a firearm.

Final Decree/Order - Entered by a Judge to dispose or to take care of an action or dispute.

Finalization - This hearing ends parental rights and gives them to the adoptive parents.

Finding of Fact - A decision made by the judge to make sure evidence is based on the facts.

Guardian ad Litem - A person with a law degree who represents the child and to make sure the child is happy and taken care of. This person may stick up for the child and their well-being.

Hearsay - Evidence that is given by someone not personally involved but has knowledge of what might have happened. This usually cannot be used in court.

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) - Law that governs the movement of foster and adoptive children from state to state.

Judge's Chambers - The judge's office or private room, usually close to the courtroom. Court may discuss the case with all parties in chambers.

Juvenile Intake - A meeting where a child and parents meet with a probation officer to discuss their case.

Kin - Extended family members or close friends who know, love, and support a child and family.

Legal Custody - Legal right to make decisions about medical, religious, and education, etc. in the best interest of a child.

Legal Guardianship - When a Judge orders a person or institution to take care of a child.

Misdemeanor - A crime in Pennsylvania. The largest penalty could be up to 5 years in prison and \$10,000 fines.

Order - A document with information given to the defendant that they must do or follow.

Orphans' Court - This court can end parents' rights, approve adoptions for minors or people that cannot care for themselves.

Paternity - Quality or state of being a father.

Permanency review - A Court hearing is held at least every six months. At this review hearing, the court reviews the status of the case, examines progress made, helps to correct, and change the case plan if needed.

Petition - Formal written request made to the court.

Pro Se - Not having an attorney in court. Being your own attorney in court hearing.

Protective/emergency custody - This is used when authorities believe a child's health or wellbeing is in danger.

Protection From Abuse - Judge's order on paper to tell an abuser to stop the abuse or have legal consequences.

Publication - A notice that is written in a newspaper or report that is used to serve by certified mail or in person.

Putative Father - Thought, assumed or alleged to be the father of the child.

Rapid Response Meeting (RMM) - This meeting is the same as a Crisis Rapid Response Meeting, except for the time when it is held. This meeting is held within 72 hours from the crisis event in the family.

Relinquishment - This is when birth parents choose to give up their parental rights in order to give up their child for adoption.

Revoke - Withdraw consent before acceptance by the court.

Service - Informing someone that they have a court hearing via written notice.

Stipulate - Agreeing to facts in court and evidence does not need to be presented.

Subpoena - An order to appear in Court with a penalty for not doing so.

Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) - Court ending the legal right of a parent to their child. This involves a Court hearing and Judge's decision.

Treatment - Programs that help people develop life skills.

COMMON ACRONYMS

ADA	Assistant District Attorney
BHRS	Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services
BOA	Board of Assistance
BSC	Behavioral Specialist
CAA	Community Action Agency
CAO	County Assistance Office
CASA	Court-Appointed Special Advocate
CCBH	Community Care Behavioral Health
CMSU	Columbia-Montour-Snyder-Union Base Service Unit - (MH – mental health, MR – Mental Retardation, D/A – drug and alcohol)
CPP	Child Permanency Plan
CPS	Child Protective Services
CRRM	Crisis Rapid Response Meeting
CSIU	Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit
CW	Caseworker
DA	District Attorney
D&A	Drug & Alcohol
DHS	Department of Human Services
DRO	Domestic Relations Office
EHS	Early Head Start
FC	Foster Care
FGC	Family Group Conferencing
FGDM	Family Group Decision Making

FSP	Family Service Plan
GMC	Geisinger Medical Center
GPS	General Protective Services
HBH	Hempfield Behavioral Health
HS	Head Start
ICWA	Indian Child Welfare Act
IEP	Individualized Education Plan
IL	Independent Living
JDC	Juvenile Detention Center
JPO	Juvenile Probation Office(r)
KC	kinship care
LIHEAP	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
LIWAP	Low-Income Water Assistance Program
MES	Middleburg Elementary School
MST	Multisystemic Therapy
MT	Mobile Therapy
WSES	West Snyder Elementary School
WSMS	West Snyder Middle School
MWHS	Midd-West High School
MWMS	Midd-West Middle School
MWSD	Midd-West School District
OCYF	Office of Children, Youth, & Families
OHA	Office of Hearings & Appeals
PAE	Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange

PCP	primary care physician
PD	police department
PO	Probation Office
PSP	Pennsylvania State Police
RRM	Rapid Response Meeting
RTC	residential treatment center
RTF	residential treatment facility
SAES	Selinsgrove Area Elementary School
SAHS	Selinsgrove Area High School
SAMS	Selinsgrove Area Middle School
SASD	Selinsgrove Area School District
SCAO	Snyder County Assistance Office
SCCYS	Snyder County Children & Youth Services
SCES	Snyder County Emergency Services
SCHA	Snyder County Housing Authority
SCP	Snyder County Prison
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
SUMCD	(Snyder-Union-Mifflin Child Development)
SWAN	Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network
TSS	Therapeutic Staff Support
UCCYS	Union County Children and Youth Services
WIC	Women, Infants, & Children