

Terminology/Acronyms

Name	Explanation
TPR	Termination of Parental Rights. An order is signed by a circuit court judge that includes a finding that all parental rights of the parent to the child are terminated. All of the relatives to the child remain as relatives, only the parental rights of the parent are terminated. The relatives' legal relationship ends when the child is adopted.
CBC	Community-Based Care Organizations. Private non-profit organizations that have contracted with the Department of Children and Families to provide child welfare services to children and families in one or more counties. Most CBCs have one or more sub-contracts with private agencies to provide the actual services to the children and families.
ICPC	Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. It is a compact between all 50 states that ensure children who are placed across state lines are placed with persons who are safe, stable and can provide appropriate care. It also establishes legal and financial responsibility, responsibility for supervision and provision of services for children.
OTI	Out of Town Inquiry. A request is sent across county lines from one CBC to another CBC requesting supervision of a child or family, completion of a home study or other child welfare services.
Special Needs Children	Special Need Children. A child must meet all three parts of the state definition for special needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child must have been permanently committed via a termination of parental rights to the Department or licensed child placing agency for the purpose of adoption, and • A child has established significant emotional ties with his or her foster parent or is not likely to be adopted because he or she is: 8 or older, mentally retarded, physically or emotionally handicapped, of black or racially mixed parentage or a member of a sibling group that must remain together for adoption, and • There was reasonable but unsuccessful efforts to place the child without subsidy except for foster parent or relative caregivers who are the adoptive parent of choice.
Pre-Placement Activities	After a match of a specific child with a specific adoptive family is made, the social worker, child and adoptive parent develop a plan for transitioning the child into the adoptive home. Pre-placement activities must begin with short visits, then longer visits and eventually an overnight and maybe a whole weekend. In between these visits can be contacts via telephone or emails. The speed of the transition to the adoptive family is determined by the child.
Child Study	After reviewing the case file and meeting the child, a child study is completed by the assigned case worker. It is an written overview of approximately 3-4 pages of the child's family and medical history of the child and birth family prior to removal, number and types of placements since removal, educational info, medical and psychological issues and projected issues in the future.
ASFA	Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA, Public Law 105-89). This is a major federal law that was enacted in 1997 that affected child welfare programs in every state for the adoption programs, required permanency, especially adoptions, to occur more timely when a child was determined to be unable to safely return home