

Community Based Care Definitions

Adoptive Placement: Begins when a child/youth is placed with an adoptive family and includes post-placement supervision and assistance in completing the adoption consummation process. Ends when the adoption is consummated and the case is closed.

Alternative caregiver: A person who is not the foster parent of the child/youth and who provides temporary care for the child/youth for more than 12 hours but less than 60 days.

Authorized Service Level (ASL): A Basic, Moderate, Specialized, or Intense service level determined by the third party contractor or a Basic service level determined by the DFPS caseworker and supervisor. The authorized service level is based on information regarding the child or youth's service needs.

Awaiting Adoption: A child who is legally free for adoption; the child's Permanency Goal is Adoption; and the child is not in an Adoptive Placement or own home placement.

Blended Foster Care Rate: Foster care rate paid to the SSCC for each day of service provided to a child or youth in paid foster care, equal to the weighted average rate paid across all placement types.

Caregiver: A caregiver is a person, including an employee, foster parent, contract service provider, or volunteer, whose day to day responsibilities include direct care, supervision, guidance, and protection of a child/youth in care. This includes employees and contract staff who provide 24-hour awake night supervision in accordance with Remedial Orders A7 and A8. See CPS Handbook [policy 7911](#).

Generally, and in furtherance of a child/youth having as normal of a life experience as possible while in substitute care, "caregiver" does not include individuals who are not routinely responsible for direct care, supervision, guidance, and protection of a child/youth in care, such as school personnel, mentors, tutors and chaperones. Instead, determining what information to provide an adult involved with a child/youth's normalcy activity (e.g., extra-curricular activity, part-time job, church activities, school field trip, and visit to friend's house) must be considered on a case-by-case basis, keeping in mind the confidential nature of the information and the need to balance the child/youth's privacy concerns. Depending on the history, age of the child/youth, and situation in which the child/youth may be when engaging in a normalcy activity, the involved adult may not need to know of the child/youth's history, for example a tutor periodically at the child/youth's placement or an adult chaperone on a school field trip.

Casey Life Skills Assessment: An assessment of a youth's independent living skills designed to be completed by both the youth and the caregiver. The youth and caregiver results are combined into a report which provides an indication of the skill level and readiness of the youth to live independently and creates the opportunity for the caregiver and youth to talk about the youth's strengths and challenges.

Designated Community Area: A geographic service area for providing child protective services that is identified as part of community-based care.

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS): A comprehensive and developmentally appropriate child welfare assessment required by [Texas Family Code § 266.012](#). This definition does not refer to the CANS assessment used to determine eligibility for mental health rehabilitative services and mental health targeted case management services. It is a multi-purpose tool that links the assessment and service planning process. It was developed with the goal of improving permanency, safety, and improved quality of life. This structured assessment of the youth and their caregiver assists in the identification of appropriate actions to address a need or to support a strength. In this way, the CANS, provides decision support for the service planning process. Available subsequent reassessments using the CANS tool also provide information about the appropriateness of the service plan and whether individual goals and outcomes are being achieved.

Child's Placement Information: DFPS shares information about a child with the SSCC in order for the SSCC to assess and make recommendations for the child's placement in a paid foster care setting. Placement information may vary between DFPS and SSCC initiated placement referrals, but, in general, the following placement information is shared with the SSCC based on timeframes set within the policy:

- Alternative Application for Placement of Children in Residential Care (Form K-902-2087ex excluding level of care information).
- Application for Placement of Child in Residential Care Form 2087 excluding level of care information).
- Court orders/affidavit.
- Visitation plans with siblings, parents, or other family member and fictive kin (if established).
- Birth verification/certificate.
- Social Security card or number (if available).
- Education portfolio.
- Medicaid and STAR Health cards or qualifying information (if available).
- Any relevant external documentation (i.e. assessments, evaluations, or therapy notes) related to the care of the child.
- Signed Placement Authorization (2085FC).
- Signed Medical Consenter (2085B).
- Signed Education Decision-Maker (2085E).
- Region Specific Placement Documentation.

Caregiver: A person whose duties include the supervision, guidance, and protection of children and youth.

Case Information: Case information is all abuse and neglect records, including records relating to reports, investigations, legal actions, and the provision of services to adults, children and families.

Case Management: In accordance with [Texas Family Code §264.151](#), the provision of case management services to a child for whom DFPS has been appointed Temporary Managing Conservator or Permanent Managing Conservator or to the child's family, a young adult in extended foster care, a relative or kinship caregiver, or a child who has been placed in the catchment area through Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, and includes, but is not limited to:

1. Caseworker visits with the child, family and caregivers.
2. Convening and conducting permanency planning meetings.
3. Development and revision of child and family plans of service, including a permanency plan and goals for a child or young adult in care.
4. Coordination and monitoring of services required by the child & the child's family.
5. Assumption of court-related duties regarding the child.
6. Any other function or service that DFPS determines necessary to allow a Single Source Continuum Contractor to assume responsibility for case management.

Caseworker: A DFPS or SSCC employee who provides casework services to children and youth in Substitute Care under the conservatorship of the State.

Child(ren)/Youth: A person(s) eligible and referred by DFPS to the SSCC for services under this contract from birth through the end of the month in which the individual turns 22 years of age.

Children/Youth in DFPS Legal Responsibility: All children for whom a court has appointed DFPS legal responsibility through temporary or permanent managing conservatorship or other court ordered legal basis. DFPS legal responsibility terminates upon court order or when a youth turns 18, whichever comes first.

Child-Care Services: Services that meet a child or youth's basic need for shelter, nutrition, clothing, nurture, socialization and interpersonal skills, care for personal health and hygiene, supervision, education, and service planning.

Child Placing Agency: A person, including an organization, other than the natural parents or guardian of a child who plans for the placement of or places a child in a childcare facility, agency foster home, agency group home, or adoptive home.

Community-Based Care: As required by the 85th Legislative Session, Senate Bill 11, a community-based model where DFPS purchases case management and substitute care services from a Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) to meet the individual and unique needs of children, youth and families in Texas. Substitute care includes both foster care and relative / kinship placements. Purchasing substitute care and case management services from the provider community allows DFPS to focus on child safety by investigating reports of abuse and neglect, providing in-home family-based safety services, and ensuring quality oversight of the foster care system. Ensuring individual children achieve timely permanency will be the responsibility of the SSCC.

Confidential Information: Personally Identifiable Information (PII), Protected Health Information (PHI), Case Information, Criminal History Record Information (CHRI), or Sensitive Personal Information.

Consortium: A group of providers who propose to jointly develop and implement a Single Source Continuum Contract proposal with different providers responsible for different parts of the proposal and resulting network. DFPS will only contract with one of the providers of a Consortium who will be directly responsible to DFPS for all services and performance outcomes under the SSCC Contract. DFPS will also contract with a separate business entity Formed by Consortia that all members have an ownership interest in.

Contract: A promise or a set of promises, for breach of which the law gives a remedy, or the performance of which the law in some way recognizes as a duty. It is an agreement between two or more parties creating obligations that are enforceable or otherwise recognizable at law. The term also encompasses the written document that describes the terms of the agreement. For state contracting purposes, it generally describes the terms of a purchase of goods or services from a vendor or service provider.

Criminal History Record Information (CHRI): CHRI is arrest-based data and any derivative information from that record, such as descriptive data, FBI number, conviction status, sentencing data, incarceration, and probation and parole information.

Designated Victim: A child determined as such by an investigation resulting in a disposition of Reason to Believe (RTB) and entered in the data system.

Disproportionality: The over representation of a particular race or cultural group in a program or system.

Disparity: The inequitable or different treatment or services provided to one group as compared to another group. It is how one is treated or the types, quality, and quantity of services made available.

eCANS: The eCANS portal is an online system that will be able to house CANS assessment results, deliver a suite of reports containing aggregate data, and provide system functionality that ties HHSC and DFPS efforts together.

Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program: A federally-funded (Chafee) and state-administered program. Under this program, Youth and young adults ages 16 to 23 years old may be eligible for up to \$5,000.00 financial assistance per year to help them reach their post-secondary educational goals.

Education Portfolio: The updated and maintained separate education binder that contains important school documents and is designed to follow school-age children and youth to each placement. This allows for the review of the most current educational records and documentation by school officials, residential child-care contractors, foster parents, family caregivers, children and youth.

Emergency Behavior Intervention: An intervention used in an emergency situation, including personal restraint, mechanical restraint, emergency medication, or seclusion.

Exceptional Foster Care Rate: Based on a pro Forma approach which involves using historical costs of delivering similar services, where appropriate data are available, and estimating the basic types and costs of products and services necessary to deliver services meeting federal and state requirements.

Experiential Life Skills Activities: Activities which engage children and youth in learning new skills, attitudes, and ways of thinking through hands-on learning opportunities. Experiential life-skills training is tailored to the child or youth's skills and abilities and may include training in practical activities that include grocery shopping, meal preparation and cooking, using public transportation, performing basic household tasks, balancing a checkbook, and managing personal finances.

Extended Foster Care: A program for youth and young adults, ages 18 to 22 years old that are eligible, and have signed an agreement to participate in this program. A youth who turns 18 years of age while in the conservatorship of DFPS who is continuing to receive Extended Foster Care services under the Extended Foster Care is eligible for Extended Foster Care services through the end of the month in which the Youth or young Adult reaches the age limit referenced in 1 through 7, so long as sufficient documentation is provided on a periodic basis as required by the terms of the youth or young adult's Extended Foster Care Agreement to demonstrate that the youth or young adult is:

1. Regularly attending high school or enrolled in a program leading toward a high school diploma or GED up to the youth or young adult's 22nd birthday;
2. Regularly attending an institution of higher education or a post-secondary vocational or technical program up to the youth or young adult's 21st birthday. These can remain in care to complete vocational-technical training classes regardless of whether or not the youth or young adult has received a high school diploma or GED certificate (40 TAC §700.316);
3. Actively participating in a program or activity that promotes, or removes barriers to employment up to the youth or young adult's 21st birthday;
4. Employed for at least 80 hours per month up to the youth or young adult's 21st birthday;
5. Incapable of doing any of the above due to a documented medical condition up to the youth or young adult's 21st birthday ([40 TAC §700.316](#)); or
6. Accepted for admission to a college, or vocational program that does not begin immediately. In this case, the youth or young adult's eligibility is extended three and a half months after the end of the month in which the youth or young adult receives his/her high school diploma or Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED) certificate.

Face-to-Face (FTF) Contact: An in-person meeting or visit that does not require video conferencing or similar technology.

Family: For purposes of this contract, family is defined as the parents or other relatives (including fictive kin) of children in paid foster care who are referred by DFPS to the SSCC for services. Families may remain eligible for the SSCC service coordination and delivery after children have exited paid foster care so long as DFPS remains the legal conservator.

Fictive Kin: For purposes of this contract, fictive kin is an individual who has a longstanding and significant relationship with a child in DFPS conservatorship, or with the child's family and provides, or is anticipated to provide, care to the child.

Financial Literacy Education Program: Education, training, and experiential support that includes:

1. Obtaining and interpreting a credit score.
2. Protecting, repairing, and improving a credit score.
3. Avoiding predatory lending practices.
4. Saving money and accomplishing financial goals through prudent financial management practices.
5. Using basic banking and accounting skills, including balancing a checkbook.
6. Using debit and credit cards responsibly.
7. Understanding a paycheck and items withheld from a paycheck.
8. Protecting financial, credit, and identifying information in personal and professional relationships.

Form 2054: DFPS Form which initiates invoicing process and contains, at a minimum the following information:

1. Name of the contractor and contract number.
2. Service Code.
3. Names of client or Family members who are to receive services.
4. Types services requested.
5. Number of units for each service requested.
6. Time limit for the service.

Foster Care: A placement paid by DFPS or other public facility. Placements include foster homes, foster group homes, basic child-care facilities, residential treatment centers, and shelters. This is a subset of children in Substitute Care.

Foster Family Home: An independent licensed operation or a home under the regulation of a child-placing agency that is the primary residence of the foster parents and provides residential child-care for six or fewer children up to the age of 18 years.

Full Continuum of Care: An array of least restrictive, most-family like placement services that meet the residential and treatment service needs of all children and youth in the care of a contractor.

General Residential Operation: A child-care facility that provides care for more than 12 children for 24 hours a day, including facilities known as children's homes, residential treatment centers, and emergency shelters.

IMPACT: Information Management Protecting Adults and Children in Texas, a computer application used by DFPS staff for case management.

Initial Coordination Meeting (ICM): Convened by DFPS and held within seven (7) days of referral to the SSCC for placement and/or services to a child or youth (Stages I-III) and/or family (Stages II-III). Purpose of ICM is to review child or youth/families history and identify service needs to be included in the child or youth and/or family plan(s) of service.

Intermittent Alternate Care: A planned alternative 24-hour care provided for a child or youth by a licensed Child-Placing Agency or Independent Foster Home as part of the agency or home's regulated child-care and that lasts more than 72 consecutive hours.

Least Restrictive Placement: Most family-like setting (e.g., parent or legal family of origin, non-custodial parent, kinship care, foster family home, adoptive home or cottage style general residential operation (GRO)) based on the child's or youth's individual needs.

Legacy System: Foster care system where DFPS delivers placement and case management services and utilizes the service level system as the method in which to pay for residential services for children and youth in DFPS conservatorship or who voluntarily agree to remain in care. In addition, current purchased client services funding mechanisms to access family services that are coordinated and authorized through DFPS.

Level(s) of Need: Array of services (including both licensed child-care and treatment services) required by an individual Child who resides in substitute care, and are designed to support the achievement of safety, permanency and well-being.

Legal Conservator: Also known as the managing conservator, is an entity responsible (either temporarily or permanently) for a child or youth as the result of a district court order pursuant to the [Texas Family Code Chapter 153](#).

Minimum Standards: DFPS rules which are the minimum requirements for permit holders and which are enforced by DFPS to protect the health, safety, and well-being of children and youth. DFPS provides publications that contain the Minimum Standards and guidelines for compliance for each type of operation.

National Youth in Transition Database: The data collection system developed by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to track the independent living services provided to children and youth and to develop outcomes that measure the States' performance in preparing children and youth for their transition from foster care to independent living. More information is available at: [National Youth in Transition Database](#).

No eject/no reject: Contract requirement that a contractor may not refuse to accept a properly referred client for services under this contract nor may a contractor cease to serve, or request DFPS remove a child, youth, or family from its referred client list.

Outcome: A measure that reflects or reveals change or impact.

Performance-Based Contract: A contract that ties payment, financial incentives and remedies to performance. Additional performance measures may be included and used to make decisions to renew or terminate the contract.

Permanency Care Assistance: The Permanency Care Assistance program gives financial support to kinship caregivers who want to provide a permanent home to children who can't be reunited with their parents.

Permanency Goal: DFPS's permanency goals are subcategories of the four goals identified by the [Texas Family Code §263.3026](#). The categories are as follows:

1. Family Reunification.
2. Adoption by a relative or suitable individual (Relative Adoption or Unrelated Adoption)
3. Permanent Managing Conservatorship to a relative or suitable individual (Relative Conservatorship or Unrelated Conservatorship)
4. Another planned permanent living arrangement (Foster Family -DFPS Conservatorship, Other Family DFPS Conservatorship, Independent Living or Community Care).

Permanency Planning: The identification of services for a child or youth (and usually to the child or youth's family), the specification of the steps to be taken and the time frames for taking those steps so as to achieve the following goals:

1. A safe and permanent living situation for the child or youth.
2. A committed Family for the child or youth.
3. An enduring and nurturing family relationship that can meet the child or youth's needs.
4. A sense of security for the child or youth.
5. A legal status for the child or youth that protects the rights of the child or youth.
6. ([40 TAC §700.1201](#) and [DFPS policy 6200](#)).

Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC): When a court orders DFPS as PMC, it can be either with a child's parental rights terminated or parental rights intact. The rights and duties of DFPS are generally the same as with TMC.

Personal Contact: A meeting, either face-to-face or by telecommunication, during which the parties' discussion and actions are not directed.

Personally Identifiable Information (PII): Any information that can be used alone or in conjunction with any other personal information to identify a specific individual. PII includes any information that can be used to search for or identify individuals or can be used to access their records. Examples include name, SSN, DOB, Social Security benefit data, and state or government issued driver's license number.

Placement Change: Any change in placement location except for temporary breaks in service as further defined in the contract.

Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Activities: Benefits and services provided to children and youth in DFPS-paid Substitute Care who are age 14 or older and likely to remain in foster care

until at least age 18, who can qualify for services up to their 21st birthday. Services and benefits may include:

1. Casey Life Skills Assessment to assess strengths and needs in life skills.
2. Life Skills training in core areas including financial management.
3. Job readiness and life decisions/responsibility.
4. Educational/vocational services.
5. Coordination of the Transitional Living Allowance (TLA) up to \$1000 (distributed in increments up to \$500 per month for children and youth who participate in PAL Life Skills training, to help children and youth with initial start-up costs in adult living).
6. Coordination of After Care Room and Board (ACRB) assistance, based on need, up to \$500 per month for rent, utility deposits, food, etc. (not to exceed \$3000 of accumulated payments per child or youth).
7. Case management to help children and youth with self-sufficiency planning and resource coordination.
8. Teen conferences.
9. Leadership development activities.
10. Additional supportive services, based on need and availability of funds, such as mentoring services and driver's education.

Protected Health Information (PHI): Individually identifiable health information that is transmitted or maintained in any Form or medium. Individually identifiable health information is data, including demographics, that relates to:

1. The individual's past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition.
2. The provision of health care to the individual, or the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to the individual.
3. Information that identifies the individual or for which there is a reasonable basis to believe it can be used to identify the individual.

As a general rule, health information linked with any one of the following direct or indirect identifiers of the individual, relatives, employers, or household members is considered protected health information:

1. Name
2. Street address, city, county, precinct, zip code, and equivalent geocodes
3. All elements of dates (except year) for dates directly related to an individual and all ages over 89
4. Telephone number
5. Fax number
6. Electronic mail address
7. Social Security number
8. Medical record numbers
9. Health plan ID numbers
10. Account numbers

11. Certificate and license numbers
12. Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, including license plate numbers
13. Device identifiers and serial numbers
14. Web addresses (URLs)
15. Internet IP addresses
16. Biometric identifiers, including finger and voice prints
17. Full face photographic images and any comparable images
18. Any other unique identifying number, characteristic, or code

Purchased Client Services: Services designed to remedy abuse, neglect and exploitation of DFPS clients. For purposes of this contract, these services are purchased by the SSCC (through an allocation of funds) and offered to children and youth in DFPS's conservatorship and their families to support the achievement safety, permanency and well-being.

Reason to Believe: Abuse or neglect occurred based on a preponderance of the evidence. This means when all evidence is weighed, it is more likely than not that abuse or neglect occurred.

Referral: Process by which DFPS notifies the SSCC of need to initiate placement and/or other services to eligible children, youth and/or families.

Residential Child-Care: The care, custody, supervision, assessment, training, education, or treatment of an unrelated child or youth for 24 hours a day that occurs in a place other than the child or youth's own home.

Return to Care: A program designed for youth and young adults 18 to 22 years old that are eligible and sign an agreement to participate in this program. Eligible participants must have been in DFPS conservatorship at the time they turned 18 years old (or were on run away status at the time they turned 18 years old and their conservatorship case had not been dismissed), and want to Return to Extended Foster Care, and:

1. Regularly attending high school or enrolled in a program leading toward a high school diploma or GED up to the youth or young adult's 22nd birthday;
2. Regularly attending an institution of higher education or a post-secondary vocational or technical program (minimum six hours per semester) up to the youth or young adult's 21st birthday. These can remain in care to complete vocational-technical training classes regardless of whether or not the youth or young adult has received a high school diploma or GED certificate (40 TAC §700.316);
3. Actively participating in a program or activity that promotes, or removes barriers to employment up to the youth or young adult's 21st birthday;
4. Employed for at least 80 hours per month up to the youth or young adult's 21st birthday;
5. Incapable of doing any of the above due to a documented medical condition up to the youth or young adult's 21st birthday (40 TAC §700.316); or

6. Return on a break from college or a technical or vocational program for at least one month, but no more than 4 months and have not reached their 21st birthday (40 TAC 700.316).
7. Attend high-school or a program leading toward a high school diploma and have not reached their 22nd birthday;
8. Are enrolled at or within 30 days of placement in a course of instruction to prepare for the GED and have not reached their 21st birthday;
9. Attend and, within two years, complete a certified vocational or technical program and have not reached their 21st birthday; or
10. Return on a break from college or a technical or vocational program for at least one month, but no more than 4 months and have not reached their 21st birthday ([40 TAC 700.316](#)).

The return to care program does not include youth and young adults over 18 years old who are overnight visitors or living in the homes of foster parents, and the foster parents are not receiving a foster care payment for the care of these youth and young adults ([40 TAC §745.601](#), [§745.615](#), and [§749.2653](#)).

Reunification: Identification of a child's own home as the safe and permanent living situation towards which services are directed. Reunification means that (1) DFPS has removed the child from the home and (2) DFPS has determined that the child's parents are willing and, after completing services, able to provide the child with a safe living environment. Reunification occurs when the child has returned to the home.

Sensitive Personal Information: Sensitive personal information means an individual's first name or first initial and last name in combination with any one or more of the following items, if the name and the items are not encrypted:

1. Social Security number;
2. Driver's license number or government-issued identification number; or
3. Account number or credit or debit card number in combination with any required security code, access code, or password that would permit access to an individual's financial account.

Sensitive Personal Information also includes data revealed directly or indirectly relating to:

1. Natural persons concerning their racial or ethnic origin;
2. Political opinion;
3. Trade union membership;
4. Religious or philosophical beliefs;
5. Physical and mental health including state of health, illness, handicaps, pathological defects or medical treatments;
6. Sexual orientation or activity;
7. Criminal records, including convictions, decisions of penalties and fines, or other information collected in judicial or administrative proceeding to ascertain an offense or regarding an alleged or suspected commission of an offense;

8. Biometric or genetic data; or
9. Social welfare needs or benefits or other social welfare assistance received.

Sensitive information does not include publicly available information that is lawfully made available to the public from the federal, state, or local government.

Serious Incident: Any non-routine occurrence that has an impact on the care, supervision, or treatment of a child or youth. This includes, but is not limited to, suicide attempts, injuries requiring medical treatment, runaways, commission of a crime, and allegations of abuse or neglect or abusive treatment.

Service Plan: The contractor's developed plan that addresses the services that will be provided to a child or youth to meet the child, youth and/or family member's specific needs while served by the contractor.

Service Area: The designated area in which the SSCC will provide all services described in this contract. The SSCC will provide all services described in this contract in their Region.

Siblings: Children, youth, and young adults who have one or more parents in common either biologically, through adoption, or through the marriage of their parents, and with whom the child, youth or young adult lived before his or her substitute care placement, or with whom the child, youth or young adult would be expected to live if he or she were not in substitute care. Counted as any child in the same DFPS case with another child.

Sibling Group: Any DFPS case with two or more children in paid foster care.

Single Source Continuum Contract/Contractor (SSCC): Entity with whom DFPS enters into a contract for the provision of the full continuum of care in a catchment area, as required in this contract.

STAR Health: Statewide managed care program that provides comprehensive health care to children and youth in foster care and relative care, including medical, behavioral health, dental and vision care.

Start Up Period: A one time, initial period of six months that will begin on the date the contract is signed during which the Contractor will perform necessary readiness activities and build its system of service prior to the first Client referral from DFPS.

Substitute Care: All children who are living in a DFPS out of home placement (kinship or paid foster care). It does not include children living in a return and monitor placement. Unless noted otherwise, it does include youth over 18 who are in Extended Foster Care but are not in DFPS custody.

Supervised Independent Living (SIL): A type of voluntary Extended Foster Care placement where young adults can live on their own, while still getting caseworker and support services to help them become independent and self-sufficient. The SIL program allows young adults to live independently under a supervised living arrangement provided by a contracted provider. A young adult in SIL is not supervised 24-hours a day by an adult and has increased responsibilities. Through SIL a young adult has increased responsibilities, such as:

- Managing their own finances.
- Buying groceries or personal items.
- Working with a landlord.
- SIL also helps transition young adults to independent living by teaching them to:
 - o Achieve identified education and employment goals.
 - o Access community resources.
 - o Engage in needed life skills training.
 - o Establish important relationships.

Temporary Managing Conservatorship (TMC): When a court orders DFPS as TMC, DFPS can exercise specific rights including but not limited to the right to have physical possession of the child along with specific responsibilities, including but not limited to the duty of care, control and protection of a child, the right to designate the primary residence of the child and the right to make decisions concerning the child's health-care and education.

Texas Adoption Resource Exchange (TARE): [TARE](#) website is the leading recruitment tool for prospective adoption homes for DFPS. The purpose of TARE is to expedite permanency for available waiting children by increasing the number of prospective adoptive home resources.

Therapeutic Services: In addition to child-care services, a specialized type of childcare services designed to treat and/or support children:

- With Emotional Disorders, such as mood disorders, psychotic disorders, or dissociative disorders.
- With Intellectual Disabilities, who have an intellectual functioning of 70 or below and are characterized by prominent, significant deficits and pervasive impairment.
- With Pervasive Developmental Disorder, which is a category of disorders (e.g. Autistic Disorder or Rett's Disorder) characterized by prominent, severe deficits and pervasive impairment.
- With Primary Medical Needs, who cannot live without mechanical supports or the services of others because of life-threatening conditions.
- Determined to be a trafficking victim.

Trauma Informed Care: An approach to understanding the biological, developmental, relational and social effects of trauma and violence on children, youth and families which integrates the understanding-based perspective to care.

Treatment Services: A specialized type of child-care services designed to treat and/or support children or youth with Emotional Disorders, Mental Retardation, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, and Primary Medical Needs as described in [40 TAC §748.61](#).

Verified Kinship Care: A kinship caregiver who has become verified as a foster parent to provide residential care in accordance with child-care licensing regulations.

Voluntary Extended Foster Care Agreement Form 2540: DFPS's Form which documents the youth or young adult's agreement to voluntarily remain in foster care and outlines the categories of activity which qualify a child or youth to remain in foster care.

Voluntary Return to Extended Foster Care Agreement Form 2540: DFPS's Form which documents the youth or young adult's agreement to voluntarily return to foster.