

Glossary for RAFT Session 1 Courses

- **1.1 Introduction to Child Welfare**
- **1.2 The Primary Permanency Goal**
- **1.3 Reasons Children Enter Care**
- **1.4 Creating a Stable Nurturing and Safe Home Environment**

HOW TO USE THIS GLOSSARY

This glossary explains words and terms you may see in the RAFT Session 1 courses.

Words are listed in alphabetical order (A-Z). If you see a word you don't know, look it up by the first letter of the word

Each word has a short, simple definition. Some definitions may include examples to help with understanding.

If a definition includes another bolded word, you can look up that word in the glossary too.

You can use this glossary anytime while you are learning. It's here to help you better understand the RAFT content.

Glossary for RAFT Session 1 Courses

Adoption

Concurrent plan where all parents' rights are terminated and all parenting rights are transferred to the adoptive family. Adoptions are for life and provide children the highest level of permanency outside of **reunification**.

APPLA – Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

Concurrent plan available only to teenagers aged 16 or older. APPLA allows a teenager with no identified legal guardian or relative resource parent to continue to benefit from ODHS supervision, independent living options, services and funding until adulthood (possibly through age 21).

ASFA – Adoption and Safe Families Act

Is a federal law passed in 1997 that requires Child Welfare to focus on specific outcomes related to child safety, permanency and well-being.

Attunement

Means tuning in or being aware of and responsive to the child's needs. It is one of the 14 **Characteristics** of Successful Resource and Adoptive Parents and is key to prioritizing the relationship with the child.

Atypical Sexual Behavior

Is sexual behavior in children that are not typical for a child's age. Signs of atypical sexual behavior include aggression, secrecy or significant age and developmental differences.

Glossary for RAFT Session 1 Courses

Casual Substance Use

Casual substance use is when a person uses alcohol or other drugs once in a while, without it causing major problems in their life. Indicators of casual substance use include, the person is not dependent, they can stop without much difficulty, and it doesn't interfere with parenting, work, relationships or the person's health.

Characteristic

Refers to qualities or traits of a person. There are 14 characteristics of successful resource and adoptive parents in RAFT.

Competency

Refer to specific skills, knowledge and abilities. There are 5 resource and adoptive parent competencies in RAFT, one for each session.

Concurrent Plans

Alternative **permanency plans** when **reunification** cannot happen.

Court Disposition

The formal court order issued by a Judge after the jurisdictional hearing to address the child's living situation and the necessary supports and services for the child and family.

CRB – Citizen Review Board

An administrative review held every six months that makes sure the case plan is going well and that the child and family are getting the right help at the right time.

Glossary for RAFT Session 1 Courses

CPS – Child Protective Services

A Child Protective Services (CPS) worker conducts comprehensive safety assessments also known as CPS assessments. During the assessment, the worker assesses parents' willingness and ability to protect the child, the vulnerability of the child, protective factors and family culture.

CPS Disposition

Is the outcome of the CPS assessment. The three possible CPS dispositions are **founded or substantiated, unable to determine or inconclusive and unfounded or unsubstantiated.**

CSEC – Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Refers to human trafficking. It means the sexual abuse of a minor child for someone else's financial gain or in exchange for something of value.

Disparity

The unequal outcomes of one group compared with outcomes for another group experiencing the same thing. An example of disparity in Child Welfare is families of color being more likely to be investigated, founded or substantiated for abuse, and having their children removed than White families.

Disproportionality

Describes when a group of people with a shared demographic identity such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or being diagnosed with a disability for example is either over or underrepresented in a space where they should not be.

Glossary for RAFT Session 1 Courses

Domestic Violence

Is when someone hurts, controls, or scares a partner or family member to gain power over them. It includes any abusive, violent, coercive, forceful or threatening act or word by one member of a family or household towards another.

Equality

Refers to when everyone is given the same thing, regardless of if it's needed or right for them.

Equity

Is when everyone gets what they need, understanding the barriers and individual circumstances. Equity recognizes that people have different needs and is not a one size fits all approach.

Family Stress Factors

Refer to any events, situations, or circumstances that makes life hard for a family. Examples include things like not having enough money, parents separating or serious illness of a family member.

Family Time

The face-to-face contact between a child and their parents.

FASD – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Are a group of lifelong conditions that can occur in a person who was exposed to alcohol before birth.

Glossary for RAFT Session 1 Courses

Felt Safety

Is the feeling of safety that comes from adult arranging the environment and adjusting their own behavior so that the child can *feel* safe in a profound and basic way. To create felt safety, resource and adoptive parents need to be predictable, trustworthy and attuned to the child.

Food Insecurity

Is when children have experienced times when they did not have enough food. It can lead to behaviors around food such as hiding food, hoarding food, eating in secret or at odd times and worrying about food.

Founded Disposition

One of the three **CPS dispositions**. Founded or substantiated means there is reasonable cause to believe abuse occurred.

Guardianship

Concurrent plan when **adoption** is not a viable option, but the child cannot return home. This is a legal arrangement in which an adult approved by ODHS and the court is given court-ordered authority and responsibility to care for a minor child. There are two types of guardianship, Permanent and Durable.

Jurisdiction

Means the court is allowed to make decisions about the Child Welfare case.

Glossary for RAFT Session 1 Courses

Jurisdictional Hearing

Court hearing where the court decided if abuse or neglect was admitted or proven, and if the child should remain in **ODHS** custody. It takes place within 60 days of child coming into care.

Neglect

Is when a parent does not use available resource to provide food, clothing, shelter, medical care or supervision. This can put the child's health or safety in danger. Neglect is the most common reason children enter care.

ODHS – Oregon Department of Human Services

Statewide government agency providing social services to more than 1.5 million Oregonians to them achieve wellbeing and independence.

ORCAH – Oregon Child Abuse Hotline

Statewide program that processes calls of concern related to child safety. The number for the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline is 855-503-SAFE(7233).

OSM – Oregon Safety Intervention Model

The model **ODHS** Child Welfare uses to assess safety of children.

Permanency Hearing

Court hearing required by **ASFA**. Takes place no later than 12 months after **jurisdiction** or 14 months after the child enters foster care. At this hearing, the court decides if the agency should keep working towards **reunification** or move to a different **permanency plan**.

Glossary for RAFT Session 1 Courses

Permanency Plan

Refers to the long-term goals for the Child Welfare care. It is defined by Oregon statute as a written course of action for achieving safe and lasting family resources for the child or young adult.

Physical Abuse

Is when someone physically injures a child. This includes any injury that wasn't an accident, especially if the story about how it happened doesn't match the injury. Physical abuse may also include injury that is a result of discipline or punishment.

Placement with a Fit and Willing Relative

Concurrent plan in which a child who is in ODHS care is in the placement with a person who qualifies as a legal relative and commits to caring for the child through adulthood. The intent is for the child to obtain a secure and lasting relationship with a relative with continued support from ODHS. This is an uncommon plan and is only pursued when **reunification**, **adoption**, or **guardianship** cannot be obtained for compelling reasons.

Poverty

Means not having the money or resources to meet your family's basic needs. This could include things like shelter or housing, medical care and transportation.

Prenatal Substance Exposure

Means a child was exposed to drugs or alcohol while in utero, before they were born. This can lead to lifelong issues for the child.

Glossary for RAFT Session 1 Courses

Psychological Abuse or Mental Injury

Is when an adult says or does very hurtful things to a child that causes severe harm to the child and affects how the child feels, what they think and how they learn, how they act and their ability to get along with others which can make it hard for them to function in daily life.

Pyramid of Prevention

A framework to help create safety and support for a child. The base of the pyramid is prioritizing the relationship with the child. The middle part is being proactive by providing structure and consistency. The top of the pyramid, the smallest part, is managing escalated behaviors.

RAFT – Resource and Adoptive Family Training

ODHS Child Welfare’s required initial training series for non-relative and pre-adoptive parents.

Reunification

Means a child can go back to live with their parent and stay connected to their family, friends and community. This is always the primary **permanency plan** and is the goal of every Child Welfare case.

Self-Harming Behavior

Is when a person hurts themselves on purpose. Examples include head banging, hair pulling, cutting, burning, biting, or picking at their skin until it bleeds. It is often a way for the child to deal with strong feelings and do not usually mean the child wants to end their life.

Glossary for RAFT Session 1 Courses

Sexual Abuse

Is any sexual activity with a child. It includes serious actions like rape, incest, unlawful touching, or making a child touch someone else in a sexual way. It also includes fondling, voyeurism and watching a child in a sexual or private way, and any sexual contact with a child meant to satisfy the adult's sexual desires. It can also mean allowing or forcing a child to take part in or be shown in sexual acts through photos, videos or live performances.

Shelter Hearing

This hearing happens within 24 hours of a child being removed. The court decides if a child can be safely placed back with a parent, or if not, the child is placed in the temporary custody of **ODHS**.

SUD – Substance Use Disorders

Also known as addiction, is when a person's use of substances (either legal or illegal, prescription or street drugs) becomes a pattern that causes problems and is hard to control.

Tribal Customary Adoption

Concurrent plan for children who are American Indian or Alaska Native where a trusted person chosen by the Tribe is given custody of the Indian child. Parent's rights are not terminated. This plan allows the child to stay connect to their family, Tribe and culture.

Tribal Sovereignty

Is a Tribe's right to govern themselves and make their own rules and laws. Each Tribe is unique, with their own traditions and customs, which must be respected.

Glossary for RAFT Session 1 Courses

Unable to Determine Disposition

One of the three **CPS dispositions**. Unable to determine or inconclusive means there is some indication abuse occurred, but there is insufficient evidence to conclude there is reasonable cause to believe abuse occurred.

Unfounded Disposition

One of the three **CPS dispositions**. Unfounded or unsubstantiated means there is no evidence abuse occurred.

Vision for Transformation

ODHS Child Welfare's road map to achieving best care for children. It is based on a belief that children do best growing up in their family and community. The Vision for Transformation is meant to ensure that foster care is family based, time-limited, culturally responsive and designed to better stabilize families, rather than serving as a placement for children.