

Acronyms and Definitions

ADHD – Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder

Adoption Staffing – A meeting where the case file is officially transferred from the Temporary Managing Conservatorship (TMC) caseworker to the new adoption caseworker. CASAs can attend this meeting and contribute valuable information to the new worker about the children, their needs and the adoption plan.

CAC – Forensic interview that is administered to children who have made an outcry of physical or sexual abuse. This interview is done at the Center for Child Protection (CAC - Child Advocacy Center was the original name)

COS – Court-Ordered Services; cases where parents maintain rights of their children, but the court requires parents to do services to maintain these rights. In COS cases, the state does not take legal custody of the children. The children live either with the parents or in a placement that the parents have approved (like a relative or symbolic relative).

COS – Circle of Support; a meeting conducted for teens, to discover the teen's goals and if they need extra support; the individuals attending the meeting are usually suggested by the teen. These meetings are held at least annually for all children in CPS custody (TMC or PMC – Permanent Managing Conservatorship) age 16 and over. The youth may invite anyone they wish to be there, and the goal is for trusted adults to assist the youth in developing plans as they approach adulthood. These meetings are run by a CPS facilitator and will include the youth's Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) worker from CPS, who will also provide the youth with information on the benefits available to them as a teen in care.

CPA – Child Placing Agency; an agency that trains and licenses foster parents

CPU – Child Placement Unit; the part of CPS that locates foster homes/RTCs for children in CPS care

CVS – Conservatorship; the work unit that handles cases where CPS is granted temporary or permanent conservatorship (custody) of children

DSM – Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders; published by the American Psychiatric Association and offers a common language and standard criteria for the classification of mental disorders.

ED – Emotional Disturbance

FAS – Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

FGC – Family Group Conference; a meeting in which the child and family meet with relatives, friends, CPS supervisors and caseworkers, service providers, CASA, and support persons in the

community to develop a plan to ensure that the child is cared for and protected from future harm. These meetings are generally two to three hours, but are sometimes longer. The idea is to bring together all of the parties and all important family members – grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and any symbolic relatives – to support the family and figure out how they can work toward the permanency goal. Like permanency conferences, a convener from CPS facilitates FGCs. These are typically positive meetings, focusing on the hopes, dreams, strengths, and support network of the family. The reasons for removal are discussed, and the family has a chance to explore and discuss solutions on their own.

FH – Foster Home

FP – Foster Parents

FTT – Failure to Thrive; when a child under 2 years of age has a weight or rate of weight gain significantly below that of other children of similar age.

FTM – Family Team Meeting

Hrg – Hearing

Hx – History

ICPC – Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children; established to ensure that when children are placed out of state, they receive protection and services that would be provided in their home state. An ICPC Home Study is required and done on the potential out-of-state placement.

ICWA – Indian Child Welfare Act (pronounced ick-wuh); a federal law that seeks to keep American Indian children with American Indian families

IOP – Intensive Outpatient Services; nonresidential services for drug or alcohol treatment.

ISP – Individualized Service Plan; a treatment meeting usually held at the child's placement to see how the child is progressing, if they are meeting their goals both at home and in school and a review of medications; the child will attend this meeting and have input. CASA should also attend this meeting.

JMC – Joint Managing Conservatorship; the sharing of the rights and duties of a parent by two parties, ordinarily the parents, even if the exclusive right to make certain decisions may be awarded to one party.

JPO – Juvenile Probation Officer

LD – Learning Disabled

LOC – Level of Care; the level of care is determined by the Youth for Tomorrow Organization, and once it has been established, the level of care determines the placement for each child. The levels are basic, moderate, specialized and intense.

Mediation – A meeting between the child's parents, the parents' attorneys, CPS, the child's attorney, and CASA to reach an agreement regarding permanency instead of going to trial. These all-day meetings are designed to find a permanent legal solution to which all parties can agree. They take place toward the end of a case, usually when reunification is unlikely and an alternate legal outcome is needed. This may be a time when parents recognize that they are unlikely to have their children returned, but that they can avoid a trial by agreeing to some terms. For example, they may agree to relinquish parental rights if the children will be adopted by a specific relative. They are facilitated by licensed mediators, and all conversations during mediation are confidential. Unless pre-authorized, only legal parties to the case may attend.

MSL – Minimum Sufficient Level (of care)

MSA – Mediated Settlement Agreement

OSAR – Outreach Screening Assessment and Referral; the first point of contact for those seeking substance abuse services. These services are free for individuals who qualify.

PAL – Preparation for Adult Living; a program that provides youth in foster care age 16 or older with training in independent living skills, support services and benefits to prepare them for departure from CPS care.

PC – Permanency Conference; a meeting to go over the families' service plan. These are generally one-hour meetings at CPS. PCs are meetings for all parties on the case to come together and discuss the history and permanency plans. The child's placement may be present for this meeting, as well. A convener will run the meeting and make sure everything is covered. Everyone will receive a copy of what was discussed. This can be particularly helpful to make sure everyone knows where the parents are on their services and how they can move forward.

PHAB – Physical Abuse; intentionally harming a child, using excessive force or reckless endangerment.

Physical Neglect (PHNG) – The failure of the person responsible for a child's care to meet the child's physical needs for food, clothing, shelter, etc.

PMC – Permanent Managing Conservatorship; when a judge appoints a person to be legally responsible for a child without adopting the child. The court can give PMC to someone other than a parent, including CPS, a relative, a close family friend or a foster parent. This can happen with or without the termination of parental rights.

Possessory Conservator (PC) – A possessory conservator typically still has parental rights, but will not have the final say on most decisions.

SBS – Shaken Baby Syndrome, aka Abusive Head Trauma

SIDS – Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

Service Plan – Developed initially 30–45 days after a child’s removal from home and reviewed in preparation for hearings, the service plan is developed by everyone involved in the case, including CASA. The goal of the service plan is to secure permanency for the child.

Show Cause (262 Hearing) – This hearing will happen about two weeks after the ex parte hearing. The name refers to the chapter of the Texas Family Code that requires a hearing in which the parents are present and can answer the allegations of abuse and neglect. CPS can start the service plan at this time to show the parents what they can complete for the case to move toward reunification. If CASA was appointed ex parte, CASA will be present at this hearing.

TBRI – Trust-Based Relational Intervention; an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children.

TMC – Temporary Managing Conservatorship; when CPS temporarily becomes the parent of the child

TPR – Treatment Plan Review

ACRONYMS USED IN CASA CASES

Acronym	Definition
A/N	Abuse/Neglect
AAL	Attorney ad Litem
ABAN	Abandonment
ADA	Asst. District Attorney
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Adoption Assistance	Payments to parents who adopt hard-to-place children in DFPS Conservatorship
AG	Attorney General
AP	Alleged Perpetrator
APS	Adult Protective Services
AT	Attorney
CA	Case Manager
CA	County Attorney
CARE	Client Assessment, Review, and Evaluation
Caregiver	A relative, guardian, representative payee, or a person who has regular contacts with the clients so that a personal relationship exists, or person who the client perceives as having a role in helping to meet the client's basic needs.
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocate
CEU	Continuing Education Units
Client	Applicant or recipient of any DFPS service or assistance
CPS	Children's Protective Services
Crm Hx	Criminal History
CSW	Certified Social Worker
CT	Court
CVS	Conservatorship
CW	Caseworker
DA	District Attorney
DADS	Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services;
DARS	Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
DC	Day Care
DCC	Day Care Center
DFPS	Family and Protective Services
DNR	Do Not Resuscitate
DV	Domestic Violence
FAD	Foster and Adoptive Home Development; Foster-Adopt
Family (in CPS)	Individuals related by blood, marriage, or adoption; individuals who are former spouses of each other; individuals who are the biological parents of the same child without regard to marriage or legitimacy/ or a foster child and foster parent, whether or not those individuals reside together.
Family Code	Texas Family Code
FBSS	Family Based Safety Services
FFH	Foster Family Home
FGH	Family Group Home
FM	Other Family Member

FPOS	Family Plan of Service
FTT	Failure to Thrive Syndrome
GAL	Guardian Ad Litem
HHSC	Texas Health and Human Services Commission; umbrella agency: DFPS, Dept of Health Services, Dept of Aging & Disability Services, Dept of Assistive & Rehabilitative Services
Hotline	Abuse Hotline(SWI) 1-800-252-5400
HUD	U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
ICF	Intermediate Care Facility
ICPC	Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. (Laws in 49 states and the Virgin Islands that establish orderly procedures for interstate placement of children. The Compact fixes responsibilities for the people, organizations, or agencies involved in placing the children across state lines.
ICWA	Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978
IN	Institution
INT	Intake
INV	Investigation(s)
JMC	Joint Managing Conservatorship
LA	Law Enforcement
LD	Learning Disabilities
LE	Law Enforcement
Managing Conservatorship	The relationship between a child and a person or agency appointed by a court pursuant to Title II of the Texas Family Code. This conservatorship assigns rights, privileges, and duties to the agency appointed.
MDNG	Medical Neglect
MH/MR	Mental Health/Mental Retardation
NSUP	Neglectful Supervision
OAG	Office of the Attorney General
OS	Other shelter
PAL	Preparation for Adult Living
Parent	A mother, a man presumed to be a child's biological father, a man adjudicated to be the biological father by a court of competent jurisdiction, or an adoptive mother or father. Does not include a parent for whom the parent-child relationship has been terminated.
PD	Program Director
PHAB	Physical Abuse
PHNG	Physical Neglect
PMC	Permanent Managing Conservator/Conservatorship
PO	Parole/Probation Officer
POA	Power of Attorney
POS	Plan of Service
PR	Service Provider
Probate	The part of Texas law containing the guardianship statutes.

Provider	Sometimes called “vendor”; a person, group, or agency other than a DFPS worker who performs a service for a client for a fee paid by DFPS. Includes doctors, pharmacists, nursing homes, home health-care agencies, family planning agencies, and day-care facilities.
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
PY	Psychologist/Psychiatrist
RAPR	Refusal to Accept Parental Responsibility
Residential Care	Services provided in 24-hour child-care facilities regulated by DFPS.
Respite Care	Gives caregivers temporary relief by providing short-term (in or out of home) care for children in foster care and children receiving post-adoption services.
REUN	Reunification
RO	Ruled Out
RTB	Reason to Believe
RTC	Residential Treatment Center
SA	Substance Abuse
Sanction	Ineligibility for benefits because of a failure to cooperate with a program requirement.
SAPCR	Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship
SF	DFPS Staff
SNF	Skilled Nursing Facility
SSI	Supplemental Security Income: A criteria for determining disability qualification for DFPS services.
STAR	Services To At Risk youth in Texas. This is one of the DFPS prevention and early intervention efforts.
SUP	Supervisor
SXAB	Sexual Abuse
TAC	Texas Administrative Code
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TARE	Texas Adoption Resource Exchange. (Referral and photo-listing service operated by DFPS to families and children to facilitate adoptions of children for whom homes have not been found locally.
TFC	Texas Family Code. Contains the child abuse reporting law and conservatorship of children. Also contains laws about protective orders, consent to medical care, and other related statutes.
TFH	Therapeutic Foster Home
TMC	Temporary Managing Conservator/Conservatorship
TP	Therapist
TPR	Termination of Parental Rights
TRO	Temporary Restraining Order
TYC	Texas Youth Commission
UA	Urinary Analysis
UH	Unrelated Household Member
UK	Unknown
UTD	Unable to Determine

ABBREVIATIONS FOR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Abbreviation	Definition
AB	Absent Parent
AU	Aunt
By	Bystander
CO	Cousin
DA	Daughter
DIV	MO and FA are divorced
FA	Father
FP	Foster Parent
FR	Friend
GC	Grandchild
GP	Grandparent
GU	Guardian
MCFS	The MO has custody, and the FA has standard visitation
MGP/MGGP	Maternal Grandparent/Great-Grandparent
MO	Mother
NE	Neighbor
NN	Niece/Nephew
OV	Oldest Victim
PA	Parent
PC	Client's paramour (APS)
PGP/PGGP	Paternal Grandparent/Great-Grandparent
PP	Parent's Paramour(CPS)
SB	Sibling
SEP	Mo and FA are separated
SO	Son
SP	Spouse (APS)
SS	Step Sibling (CPS)
ST	Step-Father/Mother
UN	Uncle
VC	Victim

PMC with and without PCA and how transferring to the caregiver goes

PMC stands for Permanent Managing Conservatorship. This is the legal term in the family code for who has custody of the child.

You can have Temporary Managing conservatorship (TMC) the way CPS does, and there is also JMC which stands for Joint Managing conservatorship. Essentially split custody either 50/50 or some other arraignment like in a divorce.

In a CPS case where they have TMC the parents have what is called possessory conservatorship (PC) rights. They have rights but they are limited. This is why the department has the ability to decide where the child lives, medical and education decisions.

In a CPS case when the time is up and you go to the final hearing or trial CPS can do the following things

- 1) Return the children to the parents where the parents receive full PMC rights back
- 2) Termination on the parental rights and DFPS takes PMC of the child until further notice.
- 3) The department can take PMC without terminating the parents rights and leaving them with PC rights.
- 4) The department can enter an agreement to JMC between 2 people and they will be removed. This is a rare occurrence. An example of this would be CPS giving JMC to a father and grandmother. This situation typically is decided during a mediation.

Caregivers are typically asked towards the beginning of the case or when they take placement if they are willing or interested in possibly being a permanent placement for the child (taking PMC). If they are interested they are told about a program called fostering connections also known as PCA- Permanency Care assistance. The PCA program is only for relative or fictive kin placements.

If caregivers decided not to do this program then PMC can be given to the caregivers at the final hearing with or without termination of parental rights.

If a caregivers decide to go through this program it can and likely will delay PMC being transferred. The delays can depend on when the caregivers started the process and how close it is to the dismissal date of the case (final hearing), If they caregivers have to change agencies, and how quickly the caregivers can get through the process.

The PCA program is not a quick process. Essentially the caregivers choose a licensing agency, go through classes and become licensed foster parents. It should be noted that just because they are licensed foster parents they are not required to take other foster children in.

In order to qualify for this program they must:

- apply to become a foster parent/choose and agency
- take the classes required through the agency and complete other agency requirements including a home study.

- Once the caregiver receive their license as foster parents, the child has to be in the home while they are licensed for at least 6 months before they are eligible.
- Once this 6 month timeline is up, there will be paperwork to fill out leading up to negotiations regarding benefits and how much monthly assistance they will receive.
- Once negotiations are completed they sign the agreement.
- **THEN** we are able to go to court to transfer PMC to the caregivers.

**** it is important to note that if PMC is transferred before the caregivers complete the PCA process and negotiations are final then they lose their chance at any benefits.**

****Because the PCA process can take so long often times the final hearing date arrives before this can be completed so CPS has to take PMC and at later date transfer PMC to the caregivers once the PCA process is done. This means that at the final hearing a final order is entered giving CPS PMC.**

**** Another KEY part that can cause a delay in transferring PMC is when parents have not had their rights terminated they parents will need to be served again for "a modification to a final order". Because the parents still have PC rights they are entitled to LEGAL notice that the final orders are being changed. This is still needed even if they parents have previously agreed to this arrangement in court. Once the parents are served then you will receive a court date to transfer PMC and the case can close.**

**** If you are having trouble finding the parents in the case/getting them served, CPS can file for "substitute of service" to serve the parents to be served by publication or another form. This will require CPS to submit an affidavit showing their efforts to find the parents and a motion requesting substitute of service. The judge will then have to approve the motion. Once this is done CPS works with the district clerks/constables to have the service completed. Once this has been completed a court date can be set and PMC transferred. This process can also take up to a couple months and delay the final transfer of PMC.**

Questions to ask early on in the case & to follow up on throughout the case.

1) Do the parents have Indian heritage?

- a. The answer to this can determine how the case proceeds if heritage is confirmed. The answer to this will also have an effect on trial and possible termination.

2) Have the parents been served?

- a. If they have not this can delay the case and final trial. You cannot make a final decision without the parents being served. This includes unknown parents.

3) Do the parents have attorneys?

- a. If they do not, what needs to happen to appoint one. If they do not it can delay a trial.

4) Visitations

- a. Are parent child visits or sibling visits happening and if not, why?
- b. Are you attending parent child visits? These are a great way to learn more for yourself about the parent child relationship and if the parents or children are engaging during them.

5) FPOS

- a. Has a service plan been created for each parent? Has it been filed with the court? Have the parents been given a copy or attempted to? Are they being reviewed throughout the case. CPS cannot terminate on a parent for not doing their services if they are not given a plan or have it filed with the court.

