

For the purpose of this manual,
the following definitions have been extracted from:

1. The Child and Family Services Act:

“**abuse**” means an act or omission of a parent or guardian of a child or of a person having care, custody, control or charge of a child, where the act or omission results in

- physical injury to the child,
- emotional disability of a permanent nature in the child or is likely to result in such a disability, or
- sexual exploitation of the child with or without the child’s consent

“**child**” means a person under the age of majority (under 18 years of age)

“**director**” means the Director of Child and Family Services

“**family**” means a child’s parent, step-parent, siblings, grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, guardian, person in loco parentis to a child and a spouse of any of those persons (note: in loco parentis means a person who takes the place of a parent)

“**foster home**” means a home other than the home of the parent or guardian of a child, in which the child is placed by an agency for care and supervision but not for adoption

“**group home**” means a home where not less than four (4) or more than eight (8) children are placed by an agency for full-time care and supervision

“**parent**” means a biological or adoptive parent of a child and includes a person declared to be the parent of a child under Part II of the Family Maintenance Act

“**place of safety**” means any place used for the emergency temporary care and protection of a child as may be required under this Act and includes treatment centres

“**record**” means a record of information in any form, and includes information that is written, photographed, recorded or stored in any manner, on any storage medium or by any means, including by graphic, electronic or mechanical means, but does not include electronic software or any mechanism that produces records

“**ward**” means a child of whom the director or an agency is the guardian

2. Foster Homes Licensing Regulation:

“**child abuse registry check**” means a record about a person from the child abuse registry obtained under the Act

“**criminal record check**” means a record obtained from a law enforcement agency about a person stating whether or not the person has any conviction or has any outstanding charge awaiting court disposition under any federal or provincial enactment

“**foster child**” means a child placed by an agency in a foster home for residential care and supervision

“**infant**” means a child less than two years of age

“**licensing agency**” in relation to a foster home, means the agency having jurisdiction to license foster homes in the area where the foster home is located

“**placing agency**” in relation to a foster child, means the agency that places the child in a foster home for residential care and supervision

“**prior contact check**” means a record about a person obtained from the director, an agency, or an entity outside the province which performs substantially the same functions as an agency, with respect to the person’s contact with an agency or an entity outside the province

Other terms that are used in foster care are:

“**agency worker(s)**” means one or more agency staff. Where possible in this manual, an attempt has been made to specify which worker (e.g. caseworker, foster home worker, night duty worker)

“**caregiver**” is a broad term referring to a person who has acted in the capacity of a parent. This could include extended family members, treatment centre staff, support workers, previous foster parents, etc.

“**care plan**” refers to the formal plan for a child in care. This plan should be reflected in a written document. Also known as treatment plan or case plan. See also Section 11 page 2

“**caseworker**” or “**child’s caseworker**” means the agency staff member who is responsible for the foster child

“**foster home worker**” means the staff member from the agency’s foster home department who is responsible for the foster home

“**homestudy**” means an in-depth assessment of the applicant and the applicant’s home. This assessment includes a personal interview (or series of interviews) designed to assess the applicant’s ability to protect, nurture, care for, and meet the needs of foster children, and to comply with the requirements of the regulations and standards governing foster care

“**licensee**” is a term used to refer to a foster parent, literally the holder of the license

“**managing agency**” in relation to a foster home means the agency or organization that controls the admission of children into the home and provides the ongoing supervision and support to the foster family