

# Section 1:

# The Nuts & Bolts of Child Welfare





## Introduction to FSS:

**Family Support Services of North Florida (FSSNF)** is the lead agency for foster care, adoption and family preservation in Duval and Nassau counties. Through community-based care, FSS provides services and programs to help prevent child abuse and neglect, to promote a healthy family environment and to care for our community's children in foster care.

Our non-profit organization was established in 2001 to provide child well-being services in Duval County, and was extended to also serve Nassau County in 2007.

**FSSNF Mission:** The mission of Family Support Services of North Florida, Inc. is to be the leader in providing safety, stability, and quality of life for all children by working with the community to strengthen the family unit.

**FSSNF Vision:** Our vision is that children grow up connected to their own families, supported by families and protected by the community; that children have the opportunity to achieve in school and to learn to be productive citizens; that citizens of Duval & Nassau counties, organizations and agencies recognize that child protection is a community responsibility and represents the best interests of all county residents.



## Important Phone Numbers List:

FSS Main Number: (904) 421-5800  
Office Hours: M-F 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

FSS Placement Department, aka Kids Central: (904) 421-5828  
FSS Placement Hours: M-F 8:30AM TO 5:00 PM

**FSS Placement After-Hours Emergency Contact  
(evenings, weekends & holidays): (904) 265-6804**

*(Answering service will receive your call and contact FSS on-call staff. FSS on-call staff will return your call within 5-10 minutes.)*

<b>CMO List:</b>	
Case Management Organization (CMO):	Main Number & website:
Daniel	(904) 296-1055 / <a href="https://www.danielkids.org/">https://www.danielkids.org/</a>
Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS)	(904) 448-1933 / <a href="https://jfcsjax.org/">https://jfcsjax.org/</a>
National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP)	(904) 551-2399 / <a href="https://nyap.org">https://nyap.org</a>
FSS Nassau	(904) 225-5347 / <a href="http://www.fssjax.org/portal/">http://www.fssjax.org/portal/</a>

<b>Additional Community Resources List:</b>	
Organization Name:	Main Number:
Children's Legal Services (CLS)	(904) 798-4900 / <a href="http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/childrens-legal-services">http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/childrens-legal-services</a>
Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)	(904) 255-8440 / <a href="https://guardianadlitem.org/">https://guardianadlitem.org/</a>
Foster Closet	(904) 629-2116 / <a href="http://www.fostercloset.org/">http://www.fostercloset.org/</a>
Early Learning Coalition (ELC)	(904) 208-2044 / <a href="http://www.elcofduval.org/">http://www.elcofduval.org/</a>
The Sulzbacher Village (72-hour & 30 day visit)	Medical: (904) 394-4958 / Dental: (904) 394-4963 / <a href="https://sulzbacherjax.org/">https://sulzbacherjax.org/</a>

## The Layers of Foster Care in Duval/Nassau:

### Dept. of Children & Families (DCF):

- State level of Child Welfare system
  - Responds to all abuse reports
- Certifies foster care licenses for homes

### FSSNF:

- Lead contracted agency by DCF for foster care management
- Ensures ongoing compliance with state regulations for foster care licenses
- Maintains relationship between foster homes & DCF

### Case Management Organizations (CMO):

- Contracted by FSS to maintain legal care and well-being of children and families in child welfare system
  - Children's Home Society, Daniel, FSS-Nassau, Jewish Family & Community Services; Neighbor To Family Inc.



## The 5 Core PRIDE Competencies:

Integral to the *PRIDE Model of Practice* is the understanding that protecting and nurturing children at risk and strengthening all their families (birth, foster, or adoptive) requires teamwork among individuals with diverse and culturally responsive knowledge and skills, all working from a shared vision and toward a common goal. Resource parents are essential members of this team. They, like caseworkers, require preparation and training to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to be effective in their work. The aim of the competency-based approach is to assure that resource families are willing, able, and have the resources to meet the needs of traumatized children and their families to the fullest possible extent.

1. Protecting and nurturing children;
2. Meeting children's developmental needs, which includes health, intellectual growth, appropriate discipline, cultural and sexual identity, social skills, academic progress, as well as ameliorating the effects of trauma and other developmental challenges or delays;
3. Supporting relationships between children and their families - because whether children have a little contact, a lot of contact, or no contact with their families they still have feelings about them, and best practice dictates that child services promote healing between children and their families;
4. Connecting children to safe, nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime, because children need continuity, commitment, legal and social status that comes from having a family of one's own through some form of permanency;
5. Working as a member of a professional team.

The *PRIDE Model of Practice* recognizes that foster and adoptive parents are a rare, valuable resource. Without them, children who must be separated from their families of origin would not have the benefits of family living. *PRIDE* also emphasizes that it is a child's right to be protected, this is not a privilege; to be a parent (birth, foster, adoptive) is a privilege, not a right.

The following pages of this handbook are intended to provide information and resources to better support you in all 5 of the above competencies.



## Common Terms and Acronyms in Child Welfare:

- **ADD:** Attention Deficit Disorder
- **ADHD:** Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- **ASQ:** Ages & Stages Questionnaire. Tool used to assess child's developmental growth in 5 domains
- **BD:** Bi-polar Disorder, previously known as Manic Depressive Disorder
- **Case Plan:** Plan in intervention, which is negotiated w/the family and other parties. Specifies the reasonable efforts of all parties to achieve the child's permanency goal
- **CBC:** Community Based Care (usually used to refer to the lead placement agency, FSS)
- **CBHA:** Comprehensive Behavioral Health Analysis. Tool used to determine services needed for child
- **CCMS:** Continuity of Care Management System
- **CFLE:** Certified Family Life Educator (focus is on healthy family functioning, preventative service)
- **CGC:** Child Guidance Center ([www.childguidancecenter.org](http://www.childguidancecenter.org))
- **CHS:** Children's Home Society ([www.chsfl.org](http://www.chsfl.org), CMO agency & group home)
- **CLS:** Children's Legal Services (DCF law firm representing the State in child welfare matters)
- **CMO:** Case Management Organization (manage the children and family personal case plans)
- **Concurrent Planning:** Process of supporting reunification and simultaneously supporting the preparation to quickly implement an identified alternative goal if safe, timely reunification is not successful
- **CPI:** Child Protective Investigator (first responder from DCF to investigate reports)
- **Daniel:** Daniel Memorial (CMO agency & group home)
- **DCF:** Department of Children & Families (State level)
- **DID:** Dissociative Identity Disorder (previously known as Multiple Personality Disorder)
- **DJJ:** Department of Juvenile Justice
- **ELC:** Early Learning Coalition ([www.elcofduval.org](http://www.elcofduval.org), Duval county childcare & education services)
- **ESE:** Exceptional Student Education (children requiring extra educational support)
- **FAPA:** Foster & Adoptive Parent Association ([www.floridafapa.org](http://www.floridafapa.org))
- **FAS:** Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (usually diagnosed with facial scan)
- **FAST:** Family Assessment Support Team: (early family intervention service)
- **F.A.S.T.:** Foster Allegation Support Team, through Florida State FAPA
- **FBCH:** Florida Baptist Children's Home (CMO agency & group home, specialized in children with special health needs)
- **FSC:** Family Services Counselor (also called a caseworker or FSC)
- **FSSNF:** Family Support Services of North Florida (lead CBC for placement & licensing for Duval/Nassau)



## **Common Terms and Acronyms in Child Welfare (cont'd):**

- **GAL:** Guardian Ad Litem ([www.guardianadlitem.org](http://www.guardianadlitem.org)), child advocate assigned to represent child in court
- **UHS:** Unified Home Study, a process of preparing, evaluating and assessing applicants for adoptive, foster and relative/non-relative child placement in a written report to DCF
- **IEP:** Individualized Education Plan (support plan for students with disabilities)
- **IL:** Independent Living (transitional services for teens in care age 13 to 23)
- **JCC:** Jacksonville Children's Commission ([www.jaxkids.org](http://www.jaxkids.org), assist with afterschool and summer programs)
- **JFCS:** Jewish Family & Children Services (CMO agency)
- **Judicial Review (JR):** Review done by the courts after the child's removal from the home or acceptance of case plan, whichever comes first, and at least every six (6) months until the court terminates supervision
- **LC:** Licensing Counselor, referring to your licensing support at FSS
- **PRIDE:** Model Approaches to Partnerships in Parenting (former foster parent training, PRIDE replaced this)
- **MHRC:** Mental Health Resource Center
- **NTF:** Neighbor to Family Inc. (CMO agency, specialized in placing sibling groups of 4 or more together)
- **OCD:** Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- **ODD:** Oppositional Defiance Disorder
- **PRIDE:** Parent's Resource for Information, Development & Education (current foster parent training)
- **PTSD:** Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- **QPI:** Quality Parenting Initiative ([www.qpiflorida.org](http://www.qpiflorida.org), Florida's approach to strengthen foster care and kinship care, source for information and training)
- **RAD:** Reactive Attachment Disorder
- **Safety Plan:** Plan developed, and continued throughout case, to address additional safety measures
- **Status:** Status Hearing (court hearing covering status of case plan progress)
- **STEPS:** Strengthening Ties & Empowering Parents ([www.flsteps.org](http://www.flsteps.org), intervention/preventative program to strengthen families)
- **TANF:** Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (includes food stamps, Medicaid services, etc.)
- **TBI:** Traumatic Brain Injury
- **TFC:** Therapeutic Foster Care (caters to the special physical, emotional and social needs of children in care)
- **TPO:** Temporary Protective Order (document issued by court to protect youth from abuser)
- **TPR:** Termination of Parental Rights (parent's rights are severed by court and child is open for adoption)