

## “Alphabet Soup” Common Acronyms

39	Chapter 39 of Florida Statutes, generally called child protection statute, it governs the court process referred to as “dependency.”
504	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Federal law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities from participating in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance like local governments, schools and colleges. 504 Plans for students with disabilities are similar to, but different than IEPs.
AAL	Attorney ad Litem, also known as Child’s Attorney
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act. Federal law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities - no federal money required
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder.
ADL	Activities for Daily Living.
ADJ	Adjudicated
ADM	Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health (approves some aspects of funding)
AES	Adoption Exchange System. AdoptFlorida.org is the statewide information system of children receiving adoption services, and families seeking to adopt special needs children
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge. ALJs work for Florida’s Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH), and are not local judges. They preside over administrative hearings in areas like special education due process hearings, independent living and Agency for Persons with Disabilities cases.
ANT	Abuse, Neglect and Threatened Harm
APD	Agency for Persons with Disabilities. A Florida state agency created in that serves people with specific developmental disabilities.
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder – a listed disability under the IDEA
BEES	Bureau of Exceptional Education Student Services. The division of Florida’s Department of Education with responsibility for educating students with disabilities.
BIP	Behavioral Intervention Plan.
BQRTP	Behavioral Qualified Residential Treatment Program – a therapeutic group home that meets additional federal standards in order to qualify for federal IV-E funding reimbursement but does not meet the Agency for Health Care Administration licensing requirements.

CBC	Community Based Care lead agencies. (There are 17 community-based care agencies in Florida that serve distinct jurisdictions. DCF contracts with CBCs to provide all child welfare functions. In some areas, CBC is the term used for the subcontracted providers that provide case management services to children.
CBHA	Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment. This is a psycho-social evaluation provided to children on entry into care and available no more than once a year thereafter. It should guide the case planning for what services children in care should receive.
CMS	Children's Medical Services – a program of the Department of Health responsible for Early Steps, Child Protection Teams, and CMS-Kids Medicaid managed care for medically needy children.
CPI	Child Protective Investigator – employees of DCF who investigate allegations of abuse, neglect and abandonment.
CPT	Child Protection Team, employees or contractors with the Department of Health who specialize in evaluating alleged maltreatment of child abuse or neglect.
DCF	Department of Children and Families. The state agency with responsibility for, among other things, foster care and mental health.
DD	Developmental Disability.
DISPO	Disposition or hearing to decide placement after adjudication of dependency
DJJ	Department of Juvenile Justice
DOB	Date of Birth
DOH	Department of Health.
DS	Developmental Services also referred to as DD or developmental disabilities services
ED	U.S. Department of Education. (Note that federal terminology for DOE refers to Dept. of Energy)
EFC	Extended Foster Care. Allows young adults that were in licensed foster care at age 18, to remain in foster care. They must participate in a qualifying activity.
EIS	Early Intervention Services.
ESE	Exceptional Student Education. Florida's term for special education. Includes services under the IDEA. Florida also includes Gifted in ESE, which is not a federal category.
ESOL	English as a Second Language.
ESY	Extended School Year.
EVAL	Evaluation
FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education.
FBA	Functional Behavioral Assessment.
FC	Foster Care
FCF	Florida's Children First, independent, non-partisan advocacy organization dedicated to children's rights.
FDLE	Florida Department of Law Enforcement
FDLRS	Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System. Provides diagnostic and instructional support services to district exceptional student education programs and families of students with exceptionalities statewide.

FDOE	Florida Department of Education.
FSFN	Florida Safe Families Network – the computer database for the child welfare system
FYS	Florida Youth SHINE, (Striving High for Independence and Empowerment) Florida's oldest youth-led advocacy organizations of current and former foster youth and those who are homeless.)
GAL	Guardian ad Litem
GM	General Magistrate (handles hearings for dependency court cases)
HB	House Bill in Florida House of Representatives
HH	Hospital/Homebound.
HI	Hearing Impaired. A listed disability under the IDEA
HT	Human Trafficking
IAES	Interim Alternative Educational Services.
ICPC	Interstate Compact for Placement of Children.
IDEA	Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.
ID	Intellectual Disabilities. Florida's definition for significantly below average general intellectual and adaptive functioning which manifested before age 18.
IEE	Independent Educational Evaluation.
IEP	Individualized Education Program.
IFSP	Individualized Family Service Plan. These are essentially IEPs for infants and toddlers.
IEP	Individual Education Plan
IL	Independent Living
JR	Judicial Review
JRSSR	Judicial Review and Social Studies Report
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment.
MAPP	Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (required classes to become a foster parent)
MBI	Manifest Best Interest. Before a court can termination parental rights, the court must decide that the termination is in the manifest best interest of the child.
MDT	Multi Disciplinary Team. It is a meeting of people with various professional backgrounds. In Chapter 39 there are specific times that an MDT staffing (meeting) is required.
NCLB	No Child Left Behind. Federal law that applies to all schools and all children, not just children with disabilities.
OCR	Office of Civil Rights. Office within U.S. Department of Education which oversees compliance with Section 504.
ODD	Oppositional Defiant Disorder. This is a mental health diagnosis and not a listed disability under IDEA
OHI	Other Health Impaired. A listed disability under the IDEA

OP ED	A column or letter placed opposite editorial page in newspaper
OSEP	Office of Special Education and Programs. Office within U S. Department of Education which oversees compliance with IDEA
OSERS	Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. Office within U.S. Department of Education which oversees OCR and OSEP.
OT	Occupational Therapy.
PESS	Postsecondary Education Services and Support. Provides a monetary stipend to young adults formerly in foster care to attend post-secondary or vocation school until age 23
PI	Physically Impaired. Florida's definition for Orthopedic Impairment, a listed disability under the IDEA
PLOP	Present Levels of Performance.
PSYCH	Psychological
PT	Physical Therapy.
QRTP	Qualified Residential Treatment Program – a therapeutic group home that meets additional federal standards in order to qualify for federal IV-E funding reimbursement and also meets the Agency for Health Care Administration licensing requirements.
RAD	Reactive attachment disorder (RAD). A disorder due to interrupted bonding between caregiver and infant caused by early neglect and multiple placements. This is a mental health diagnosis and not a listed disability under IDEA
RTI	Road to Independence Program for older youth (§409.1451) it includes Postsecondary Education Services and Supports and Aftercare.
RTI	Response to Intervention – this is a special education term that requires schools to try to help children experiencing learning problems before undertaking the formal evaluation and IEP process.
RTC	Residential Treatment Center -Therapeutic Group Homes, Qualified Residential Treatment Programs and State Inpatient Psychiatric Programs are all RTCs.
SB	Senate Bill in Florida Senate
SED	Serious Emotional Disturbance. A listed disability under the IDEA
SIPP	Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program – a type of Residential Treatment Center
SLD	Specific Learning Disability. A listed disability under the IDEA
SLI	Speech Language Impairment. A listed disability under the IDEA
SSI	Supplemental Security Income – provides income to children and adults with disabilities
SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance. Provides income to disabled people who have a long enough work history.
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury. A listed disability under the IDEA
TPR	Termination of Parental Rights
VI	Visually impaired. A listed disability under the IDEA