**GLOSSARY**

A  
Abuse: Includes, but is not limited to; a child is dead or exhibits evidence of skin bruising, bleeding, malnutrition, failure to thrive, burns, fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, soft tissue swelling, and such a condition is not justifiably explained or may not be the product of any accidental occurrence, and any case in which a child is subjected to sexual assault, sexual molestation, sexual exploitation, sexual contact, or prostitution  
Absence/Abandonment: Involves children who have been left by their primary caregiver with other people, such as strangers, for extended periods of time without contact or support provided to the child or the adult responsible for the child  
Abusive Head Trauma: Injury to the face, scalp, skull, meninges, and/or brain as a result of mechanical force. This could be a result of direct impact, asphyxiation, or shaking. Also known as “shaken baby syndrome”  
Acute Trauma: Refers to a response to a single traumatic event that is limited in time

Adult Protective Services: Assesses adult safety and need for protection

Adversarial: (of a trial or legal procedure) in which the parties in a dispute have the responsibility for  
finding and presenting evidence  
Assessment: An ongoing objective information gathering process that analyzes history, patterns of behavior over time, strengths, capacities, and any contributing risk factors  
Affect Regulation: The ability to control one's emotions or shutting down; a subset of processes involved in controlling feelings, particularly the strategic control of feelings to serve a goal or purpose  
Agency: Conviction that what one does matters; one can accept responsibility for, and positively influence, one's own life  
Apathetic: Having or showing little to no emotion  
Attachment**:** Refers to the social and emotional relationships children develop with the significant people in their lives  
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD**):** An emotional and behavioral disorder that is characterized by inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity, and a low tolerance for frustration  
Attunement: Refers to being aware of, and responsive to, another person  
Autism: A spectrum disorder that affects individuals with varying severity and a different array of symptoms, including: repeated behaviors, difficulty expressing needs or processing information, and insistence on routine

Autonomy: Includes mastery and control over one's self and one's environment

# B

Bipolar Disorder: A mental health diagnosis that has extreme highs and extreme lows

Bonding: A biological process that occurs as a newborn child begins to find comfort in its world

Bottle Rot/Early Childhood Caries: Refers to decayed teeth resulting from giving a child a bottle at night or putting sugary liquids in a child’s bottle regularly over time  
Boundaries: May refer to the division between our personal and professional selves, between our thoughts and our clients’, and between our own opinions and the mission/policies or our agency, among many other possible distinctions

C  
Cerebral Palsy: A disability that can affect muscle control resulting in fine and gross motor skills as well as difficulty with speech - usually caused by a brain injury just before, during, or immediately after birth  
Child: An individual who is not married, and who has not attained 18 years of age  
Child and Family Services: Assesses the special needs of the child, issues or problems to be resolved, and safety of the child should he or she remain in the home  
Child Protective Services**:** Assesses child safety and need for protection  
Child Trauma**:** Refers to a child's witnessing or experiencing an event that poses a real or perceived threat to the life or well-being of the child or someone close to the child, such as parent or sibling. The event overwhelms the child’s ability to cope and causes feelings of fear, helplessness, or horror, which may be expressed by disorganized or agitated behavior.  
Chronic Trauma: May refer to responses to multiple and varied events or longstanding trauma  
Civil Court/Civil Proceedings**:** The type of court where Child and Family Services conducts an investigation and determines whether there is a need to protect the child or not; the standard of evidence is different from criminal cases and varies from tribe to tribe; police reports are not required; parents must comply with court-ordered requirements  
Coercion: Refers to threats against the victim or the victim’s loved ones  
Cognition: The process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses  
Cognitive Domain**:** Includes thinking, perception, and memory

Colic: Severe, often fluctuating plain in the abdomen caused by intestinal gas or obstruction in the intestines and suffered especially by babies  
Competing Goals: Goals or objectives that are in tension with, or inconsistent with, the overall goal of the effort. They may exist at the group level or at the individual level.  
Complex Trauma: Used to describe both exposure to chronic trauma and the immediate and long-term impact of such exposure on the child  
Confidentiality**:** Preserving, respecting, and maintaining the privacy of people who interact with the system  
Control Issues: May arise when the question of “who’s in charge” becomes more important than “what should we do?”  
Corpus Callosum**:** A huge band of fibers that connects the two sides of the brain  
Criminal Court/Criminal Proceedings**:** The type of court where law enforcement investigates a crime(child abuse/neglect, child endangerment, assault, etc.); may result in a federal trial, depending on the seriousness; a police report is required; there are criminal penalties for the offender and the alleged victim may be required to testify in court

# D

Demarcation: Separation or distinction  
Dental Neglect: Failure of a parent or guardian to seek and obtain appropriate and available treatment for cavities, oral infections or other conditions of the teeth and supporting structures that makes routine eating difficult or impossible, causes chronic pain, delays or retards a child’s growth or development, or makes it difficult or impossible for a child to perform daily activities such as playing, working, or going to school  
Didactic**:** Intended for instruction  
Differential Response**:** Consists of encouraging caseworkers to respond differentially to reports of child maltreatment depending on the level of threat to the child's safety and the possibility of keeping otherwise capable families together  
Differing Values: Conflict may arise when those involved in the effort are in contention over what they value, how the effort should be defined, what behaviors are appropriate, etc.  
Direct Exposure**:** The individual might be the one threatened by a traumatic occurrence  
Discipline: Refers to the system of teaching and nurturing that prepares children to achieve competence, self-control, self-direction, and caring for others  
Disparities**:** Differences

Dissociation**:** Describes a wide array of experiences from mild detachment from immediate surroundings to more severe detachment from physical and emotion experience  
Double Binds**:** Essentially means “can’t win no matter what,” or “damned if you do, damned if you don’t”  
Down Syndrome: A chromosomal malformation that causes physical and mental symptoms including mild to moderate intellectual disability, stereotypical facial features and other physical differences  
Drug Endangered Children (DEC**):** A person, under the age of 18, who lives in or is exposed to an environment where drugs, including pharmaceuticals, are illegally used, possessed, trafficked, diverted, and/or manufactured and, as a result of that environment: the child experiences, or is at risk of experiencing, physical, sexual, or emotional abuse; the child experiences, or is at risk of experiencing, medical, educational, emotional, or physical harm, including harm resulting or possibly resulting from neglect; or the child is forced to participate in illegal or sexual activity in exchange for drugs or in exchange for money likely to be used to purchase drugs  
DSM-5: The guide to diagnosing mental health issues that clinicians use

E  
Educational Neglect: Occurs when a parent or caregiver fails to enroll a school-aged child in school or provide home schooling, or when a special-needs child is not provided with special education services, and the child develops a pattern of chronic truancy  
Echolalia: When a child repeats words that are spoken to him  
Egocentricity: Having or regarding the self or the individual as the center of all things; having little or no regard for interests, beliefs, or attitudes other than one’s own; self-centered  
Emaciated: Abnormally thin  
Emotional Abuse: Recurring verbal and/or non-verbal behavior of a person characterized by intimidating, ignoring, belittling and/or otherwise damaging a child’s sense of self-worth and emotional development; a concerted attack by an adult on a child’s development of self and social competence, as a pattern of psychically destructive behavior  
Emotional Domain: Concerns feelings and self-regulation  
Emotional Environment: Refers to the degree of relationship-based interaction and nurturance that he or she receives  
Empathy: Imagining what someone else is feeling, attempting to understand his or her perspective, and responding in ways that help them feel connected and supported rather than judged or diminished  
Engagement: Refers to the process of building the relationships that are necessary to do your job

Epilepsy: A neurological disorder that causes seizures  
Evidentiary Hearing: Second stage of a child protection case process. This is where the caseworker presents the results of their complete assessment, and the court uses the evidence provided by both sides to arrive at more lasting decisions about placement and parental rights  
Expressive Language: Refers to the ability to use words to communicate

F  
Failure to Thrive (FTT): A description often applied to children whose current weight or rate of weight gain is significantly below that of other children of similar age and sex   
Organic Failure to Thrive: Caused by medical complications of premature birth of other medical illnesses that interfere with feeding and normal bonding activities between parents and infants  
Nonorganic Failure to Thrive: Cannot be explained by any physical condition and is often connected with parental/caregiver neglect or abandonment, or to some other form of

maladaptive interaction between the caregiver and the infant

False Bravado: A characteristic that a child may exhibit when they are compensating for fear with an appearance of invincibility  
Families in Perpetual Crisis (description): “Living in a crisis-oriented family is like riding a roller coaster 24 hours a day: terrifying, energizing, and addicting. Families in crisis manage to flirt with disaster and avoid feelings of emptiness and despair. If you have grown up feeling cold, worthless, powerless, and depressed, crisis makes you feel alive. Growing up in a crisis-filled family, means knowing no other way of life. With the threat of the collapse or dissolution of your family hovering over you, any diversion, however dangerous, provides some relief” (Kagan and Schlosberg).  
Family Cohesion: Defined as the emotion bonding that family members have toward one another  
Family Violence: Any act, or threatened act, of violence, including any forceful detention of an individual, which results, or threatens to result, in physical or mental injury, and is committed by an individual against another individual to whom such person is, or was, related by blood or marriage or otherwise legally related, or with whom such person is, or was, residing, or with whom such person has, or had, intimate or continuous social contact and household access  
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS): Disabilities caused by alcoholic toxins being introduced to the fetus during pregnancy. Symptoms may include: mild cognitive delays and low-normal cognitive functioning, pre- and post-natal growth deficiency, or mild to moderate degrees of microcephaly (small head circumference)  
Fight: A trauma response when a client may become angry or aggressive

Flight: A trauma response when a client may demonstrate a pattern of avoidance

Force: Refers to physical violence or restraint  
Fraud: Refers to deception or lies the trafficker may tell to dupe the victim into an involuntary work agreement  
Freeze: A trauma response when a client may seem disengaged or numb when a caseworker tries to connect

G  
General Assistance (GA): Assesses specific steps needed for an individual to increase independence and self-sufficiency

H  
Helplessness: Efforts may be stalled when members doubt their ability to achieve the goal or have an impact, or feel that too many critical factors are beyond their control, or adopt a strategy of going through the motions without actually changing anything  
Hippocampus: Part of the brain that controls learning and memory  
Historical Trauma: Refers to the collective and cumulative wounding of a group of people across the lifespan and across the generations, resulting from massive cataclysmic events or historical conditions  
Hyper-vigilance: An adaptive state that requires one to constantly check their environment to make sure that it is safe

IIndian Child Welfare Act (ICWA): Governs child custody proceedings involving enrolled (or enrollable) tribal members off-reservation – assesses the appropriateness for a child to be returned to the reservation, assess relatives and their resources to care for the child or assess if the child can return home  
ICWA “Active Effort” Mandate: Any party seeking to effect foster care placement of, or termination of parental rights to, an Indian child under state law shall satisfy the court that active efforts have been made to provide remedial services and rehabilitative programs designed to prevent the break-up of an Indian family and that there efforts have proved unsuccessful  
Identifiable Information: Anything that someone who is not professionally involved in the case could use to identify the individuals involved  
Impetigo: A common bacterial skin infection which causes oozing red sores and is highly contagious  
Indirect Exposure: Might involve witnessing the events of learning about such events, when they involve close family members or close friends

Individual Indian Money (IIM): Assess account holder’s needs in managing his or her finances and living needs  
Individualized Education Plan (IEP): A written document that’s developed for each public school child who is eligible for special education services  
Infant: A child under the age of one year old  
Initial Hearing: Stage one of a child protection case process. Usually held in the immediate aftermath of a removal. Emergency placement decisions are made here and a case workers may present recommendations based on their initial assessment  
Intellectual Disability: Characterized by significantly sub-average general intellectual functioning (i.e., an IQ of approximately 70 or below)  
Interactive Play: The skill children gain in preschool when they learn basic social rules, such as sharing and taking turns, giving them the ability to play cooperatively with others  
Internal Locus of Control: Sense of control over one's life

Intracranial Hemorrhage: Bleeding within the brain

Investigatory: To examine, study, or inquire into systematically; search or examine into the particulars  
of; examine in detail

J  
Juvenile Services: The BIA’s Office of Law Enforcement Services provides juvenile services including juvenile delinquency prevention programs and services designed to reduce gang activity.

# K

# L

Labor Trafficking**:** The use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery  
Lack of Supervision: Occurs when children who are not old enough to care for themselves, or who are being cared for by someone who is not competent to meet the needs of the child, are left unattended when there is a danger of injury or death  
Learning Environment: Consists of those features of a home and educational environment that provide intellectual stimulation, hopefully in an adequate quality and intensity, so as to promote the establishment and configuration of neural pathways in the brain  
Linearity: The property, quality, or state of being linear

Listless: Having or showing little to no interest in anything  
Local Child Protective Services Agency: That agency of the Federal government, of a state, or of an Indian tribe that has the primary responsibility for child protection on any Indian reservation or within a community in Indian country.  
Local Law Enforcement Agency: That Federal, state, or tribal law enforcement agency that has the primary responsibility for the investigation of an instance of alleged child abuse within the portion of Indian country involved.

# M

Maladaptive: Not providing adequate or appropriate adjustment to the environment or situation  
Marginal Child-rearing: Child-rearing practices that are clearly not optimal, but that also do not clearly endanger the child  
Multidisciplinary Team (MDT): A specialized prosecution based team which deals with child abuse and neglect  
Meconium: The first fecal excretion of a newborn infant, composed mostly of bile, mucus, and epithelial cells  
Medical Neglect**:** Occurs when the actions or behaviors of a child’s primary caregiver result in hard of a serious threat to the child’s physical health  
Mongolian Spots**:** Slate gray birthmarks that may be mistaken for bruises  
Morality: Involves principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong, or good and bad behavior

N  
Narcissistic: Becoming unrealistically self-complimentary, harboring grandiose ideas of their capacity, and having high expectations for their performance in the future  
Neglect: Includes, but is not limited to, negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a person, including a person responsible for the child’s welfare, under circumstances which indicate that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or threatened  
Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: Babies born addicted to drugs that suffer extreme withdrawal symptoms for anywhere from five weeks to six months. Symptoms include: rarely sleeping deeply, struggling to eat, uncontrollable shaking, and crying often and in response to the smallest sensory inputs

# O

Object Permanence: The understanding that objects continue to exist even when they are not observed  
Oppositional Defiant Disorder: A childhood disorder that is characterized by negative, defiant, disobedient and often hostile behavior toward adults and authority figures primarily

# P

Parallel Play**:** Where young children play side by side with each other, but not together

Perception**:** The ability to understand event that occur around one's self

Permanency Hearing**:** A proceeding during which the court makes a decision about a child’s permanency  
plan.   
Person Responsible for a Child's Welfare**:** Any person who has legal or other recognized duty for the care and safety of a child, including any employee or volunteer of a children's residential facility, and any person providing out-of-home care, education, or services to children.  
Petechiae: A form of rash that can be caused by several factors, including injury, infections, medical conditions or medications  
Physical Abuse**:** Includes, but is not limited to; a child is dead or exhibits evidence of skin bruising, bleeding, burns, fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, soft tissue swelling, and such a condition is not justifiably explained or may not be a product of any accidental occurrence  
Physical Domain: Concerns physical growth, sensory (see, hear, feel, smell, taste), motor, and nervous system development  
Physical Environment**:** Refers to the external surroundings and influences that affect a child's development  
Placid: Having a calm appearance of nature

Pliable: Easily bent; flexible

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): May develop after a child is faced with an extreme stressor event  
or repeated events with intense and overwhelming response (fear, helplessness, horror) followed by symptoms that continue including flashbacks, depression, and hyper-vigilance  
Prefrontal Cortex: Part of the brain that controls behavior, cognition, and emotional regulation  
Prenatal Environment: Includes the chemical balance of the mother's body and the presence of conditions or potentially toxic substances that can alter developmental processes  
Propensity**:** A natural inclination or tendency

Protective Capacities: Personal strengths of characteristics that contribute to the safety of vulnerable individuals  
Protective Factors**:** Positive family, community, or environmental resources that provide a safety buffer  
Psychological Neglect: May be present when a child is in danger to him/herself or others, but the parent or caregiver does not take action to protect the child  
Punishment: The application of a negative stimulus to reduce of eliminate a behavior

# Q

# R

Receptive Language:Refers to the ability to understand others' spoken words and their meaningsReciprocal Connectedness: When a child develops affectionate and trusting relationships with not only a single person, but with other family members and adults outside the family  
Reflectiveness: Curiosity about one's thoughts, feelings, and motivations; willingness to try to make sense of them and handle them responsibly  
Regression: When a child behaves in a manner that does not meet their chronological age (number of years since birth)  
Relatedness: Engaging and interacting with others; a willingness to accept and use supportive relationships  
Relationship Issues**:** May arise when two or more members of the effort allow relationship difficulties or differences to determine their behavior, rather than allowing the goal for the effort determine their behavior  
Resiliency**:** The ability to adapt to and/or overcome adverse or traumatic experiences based on one's skills, attributes and access to outside resources  
Review Hearings**:** Stage three of a child protection case process. This is where the child’s placement and case status are reassessed to determine whether there are any changes that need to be made. Usually occur at least every six months.  
Role Reversal: A situation in which someone adopts a role the reverse of that which they normally assume in relation to someone else, who typically assumes their role in exchange

S  
Scapegoat**:** A person made to bear the blame for others

Secondary Traumatic Stress (STS): The natural consequent behaviors and emotions resulting from knowing about a traumatizing event experienced by a significant other –the stress resulting from helping or wanting to help a traumatized or suffering person  
Self-Efficacy: One’s belief in one’s ability to succeed in specific situations or accomplish a task  
Self-Regulation**:** A child's ability to control feelings and responses to those feelings, as well as the ability to cope with stress  
Sensory Integration**:** Allows us to make sense of our world by connected information we receive from all five senses  
Service Area**:** A geographic area designated by the Assistant Secretary where financial assistance and social services programs are provided (25 CFR § 20.100)  
Sex Trafficking**:** All children under the age of 18 who are induced to engage in commercial sex are victims of sex trafficking – children cannot consent to force, fraud, or coercion  
Sexual Abuse**:** Any case in which a child is subjected to sexual assault, sexual molestation, sexual exploitation, sexual contact, or prostitution  
Sexual Domain: includes the development of sexual identity and attraction, along with the rich assortment of behaviors that accompany sexual identity and attraction  
Social Domain: Includes the child's interactions with other people and involvement in social groups  
Social/Cultural Environment: consists of norms, values, belief systems, morals, and standards of behavior that regulate life in the cultural group in which a child is raised  
Somatic Complaints: When a child reports physical symptoms, but upon a medical visit, results of the test exam or test results indicates no medical explanation for the symptoms (these types of complaints maybe caused by emotional abuse).  
Stranger Anxiety: Distress when encountered by someone other than their primary caretaker  
Strength-Based Perspective: A perspective that recognizes that parents who have become involved with the child welfare system are not simply villains whose negative actions are proof of their deficient characters, but rather struggling people with the capacity for resilience  
Subdural Hematoma**:** Collection of blood outside the brain

Symbolic Thought: The ability to understand the meaning of a word, body language, or tone

# T

Temperament:The combination of mental, physical, and emotional traits of a person; natural predisposition

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF**):** A program designed to help needy family achieve self-sufficiency  
Thrush: An oral yeast infection caused by a type of fungus or yeast and can cause discomfort for an infant or child. Symptoms include: while patches in the mouth or on the tongue that may bleed when rubbed, redness or soreness inside the mouth, or cracking at the corner of the mouth  
Title IV-E: A federal program that provides financial assistance to eligible foster children

Torsional Force: The twisting or wrenching of a body by the exertion of force

Trafficking: A current form of slavery that can be focused on sex work or other kinds of forced labor

Trauma Reminders: Triggering incidents or images in everyday life that cause children to re-experience the traumatic events that have affected their development  
Trauma Response: An individual's experience of being reminded of a past traumatic event and having corresponding feelings that are difficult to control  
Truancy**:** Unexcused absence from school

U  
Un-channeled Passion and Energy: Many individuals are empowered to work in the child protection effort for a variety of reasons, but if that passion and energy are not channeled, the effort may fall flat

# V

Volatility: Tending or threatening to break out into open violence

# W

# X

# Y

# Z