

# Legal 101

\*\* Note that this information is a guide. Please seek legal advice if you have further questions. \*\*

Individual	Role
<b>Judge</b>	A public official authorized to decide questions brought before a court.
<b>County Attorney</b>	Represents social services; Presents evidence Responsibility for advancing the public interest in the welfare of the child
<b>Attorney for the Parents</b>	Represents the parent(s), step-parents, significant others, alleged parents Court appointed list
<b>Attorney for the child(ren)</b>	Court appointed or public defender Represents what the child legally wants (as opposed to the child's best interest)
<b>Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)</b>	Represents "best interests" of child (as opposed to what child wants) Court appointed (may be paid or volunteer, depending on jurisdiction) Can also have a GAL for mentally impaired adult or minor parent Can have more than one GALs on case
<b>Foster Parent</b>	24-hour-a-day care of a child following placement by the commissioner or a licensed child-placing agency pursuant to a court order or voluntary placement agreement
<b>Relative</b>	Has the right to request to be heard in court
<b>Petitioner</b>	Individual who files a request with the court
<b>Indian Tribe</b>	May be involved at various levels of a child's case if applicable
<b>Pre-Adoptive Parent</b>	Family has signed an Adoptive Placement Agreement, agreeing to adopt a child.
<b>County Social Worker</b>	Professional who works with children, adults, and families to protect safety, promote positive mental health, and improve quality of life.
<b>Licensing Social Worker</b>	Professional who works with foster parent(s) and foster families to obtain and maintain licensing standards as well as offer support.

Phrase	Definition
<b>EPC</b>	Emergency Protective Care hearing. Occurs 72 hours after involuntary removal of a child.
<b>CHIPS</b>	Child In Need of Protection or Services. Legal proceeding for children in the care of child protection services.
<b>OHPP</b>	Out of Home Placement Plan. Document developed by a specific child, parents, social worker, foster parents and other involved individuals to outline steps necessary to accomplish identified goals.
<b>TLC</b>	Transfer of Legal Custody. See "Paths to Permanency" handbook.
<b>Reunification</b>	Process by which the child is able to return to their parents (s).
<b>Permanency</b>	Long-term plan regarding a child's living arrangement and legal guardian(s). See "Paths to Permanency" handbook.