

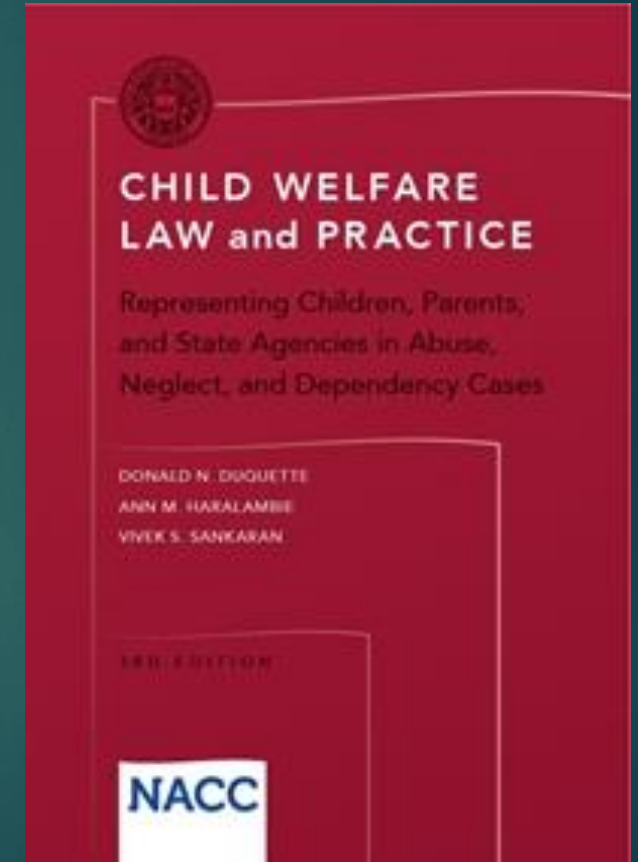


Building the Foundation:

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF
CHILD WELFARE LAWS

Child Welfare Law Specialist

- ▶ Certification is a professional achievement that signifies an attorney's specialized knowledge, skill, and verified expertise in the field of child welfare law
- ▶ Highest testament to an attorneys' dedication and demonstrated excellence in this discipline
- ▶ <https://www.naccchildlaw.org/page/Certification>



Federal Laws that Drive the Child Abuse & Neglect Court Process

Establishing the Foundation
Review of Federal Laws & Regulations



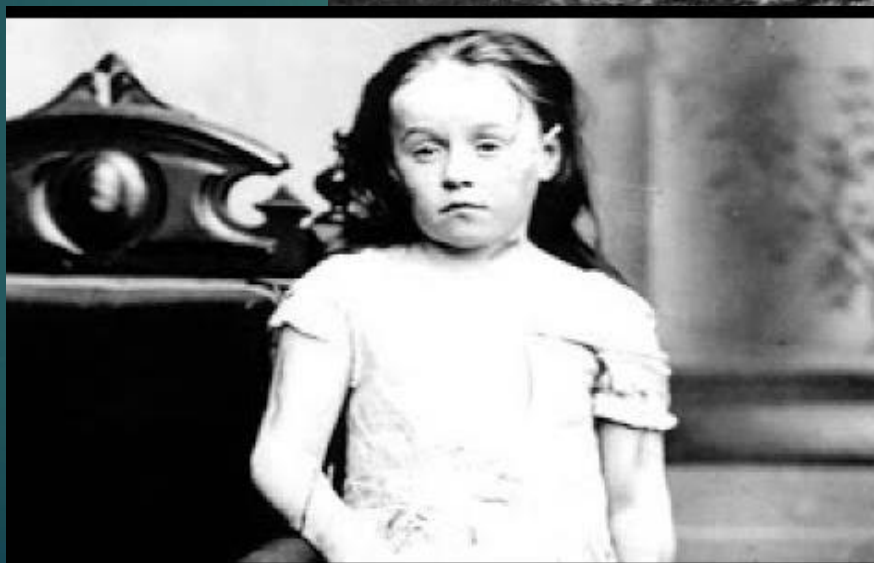
Overview



Our Purpose:

- ▶ Review key federal legislation time line
- ▶ Provide a framework for understanding the federal legislation that has shaped child abuse and neglect court proceedings and the role of the judge
- ▶ Understand the evolving nature of the system and current priorities of the Children's Bureau

Historical Perspective



1874

Introduction

- ▶ Since 1974, federal law has played a major role in the development of state law and policy on child abuse and neglect proceedings.
- ▶ Most of the federal laws in this area affect the states because they grant or deny federal funds depending on the state's compliance with certain conditions.

Key Federal Legislation Timeline

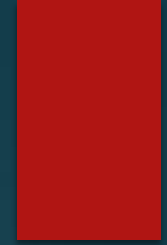
- ▶ 1974 – Original CAPTA
- ▶ 1978 – ICWA
- ▶ 1978 – CAPTA Amended
- ▶ 1980 – Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act
- ▶ 1984, '88, '92 – CAPTA Amended
- ▶ 1993 – Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (Court Improvement Program)
- ▶ 1993 – Family Preservation and Family Support Services Program
- ▶ 1994 – MEPA
- ▶ 1996 – MEPA and CAPTA Amended
- ▶ 1997 – ASFA
- ▶ 1999 – CHAFEE Foster Care Independence Act
- ▶ 2000 – Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act
- ▶ 2000 – Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts Act

→ NCJFCJ RESOURCE GUIDELINES, 1995

→ NCJFCJ ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY GUIDELINES, 2000

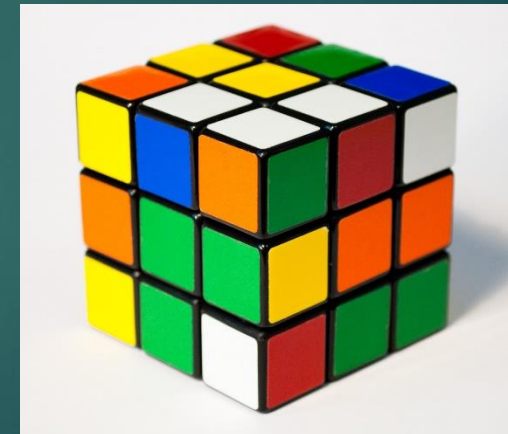
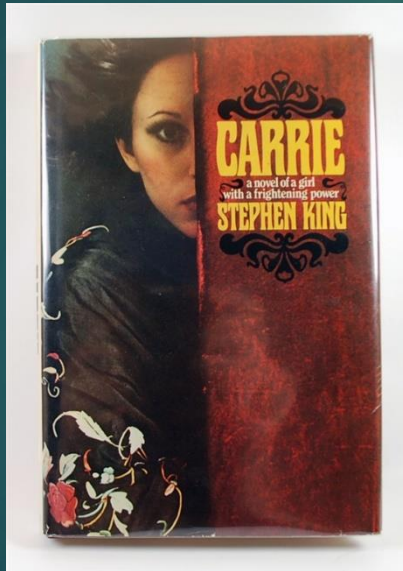
Key Federal Legislation Timeline

- ▶ 2001 – Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments
- ▶ 2001 – No Child Left Behind Act & McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act
- ▶ 2003 – Keeping Children Safe Act
- ▶ 2003 – Adoption Promotion Act
- ▶ 2004 – IDEA
- ▶ 2005 – Fair Access to Foster Care Act
- ▶ 2005 – Deficit Reduction Act
- ▶ 2006 – Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act
- ▶ 2006 – Child and Family Services Improvement Act
- ▶ 2006 – Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act
- ▶ 2008 – Fostering Connections to Success & Increasing Adoptions Act
- ▶ 2010 – CAPTA Reauthorization
- ▶ 2014 – Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act
- **NCJFCJ ENHANCED RESOURCE GUIDELINES, 2016**
- ▶ 2015 – ESSA
- ▶ 2016 – CARA
- ▶ 2018 – Family First Prevention Services Act



1974

CAPTA



Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (1974)

- ▶ Child abuse and neglect reporting laws
- ▶ Investigation of reports of abuse and neglect
- ▶ Public education about abuse and neglect
- ▶ Confidentiality of child protective service records
- ▶ GAL for every abused or neglected child subject to judicial proceedings



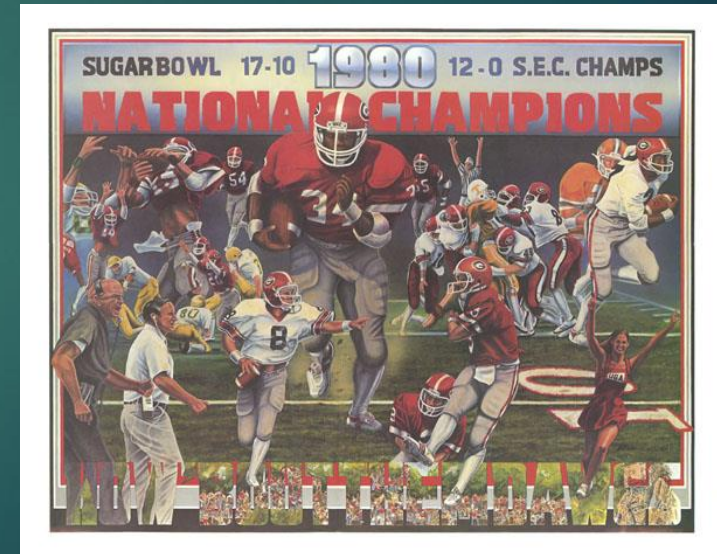
Indian Child Welfare Act (1978)

Goals:

- ▶ To protect the best interests and stability of Indian children and families.
- ▶ To establish minimum federal standards for the removal of Indian children from their homes and for the placement of Indian children in homes that reflect the values of Indian culture.



1980



AACWA

Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act (1980)

- ▶ Act intended to
 - ▶ Protect children in foster care
 - ▶ Shorten the time children spent in foster care
 - ▶ Encourage permanency planning through reunification when possible and TPR and adoption when not

Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act (1980) (Cont'd)

Amended Title IV of the Social Security Act

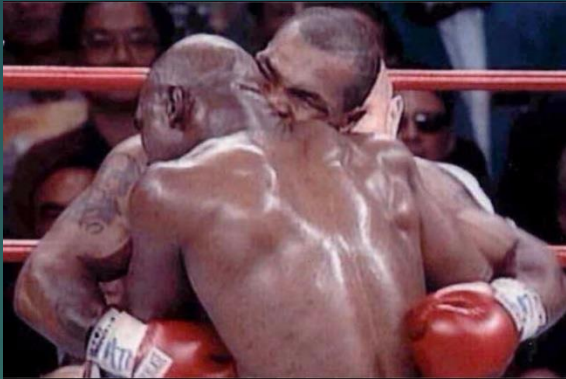
- ▶ Must establish a state service plan and individual case plan for each child
- ▶ Required certain state judicial findings as a condition of federal funding
 - ▶ **“reasonable efforts”**

Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act (1980) (Cont'd)

- ▶ Juvenile Court must determine that case plan developed to ensure placement in least restrictive, most family-like setting in close proximity to parent(s) home
- ▶ Juvenile Court must ensure status of every foster child is regularly reviewed and child is given timely permanent placement

Multiethnic Placement Act (MEPA) (1994)

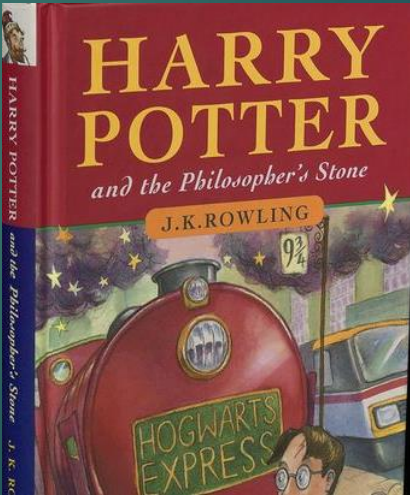
- ▶ Prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in foster care or adoptive licensing & child placement
- ▶ States' implementation of MEPA has led to:
Special recruitment efforts for minority foster & adoptive parents; relative placement preference; following ICWA requirements



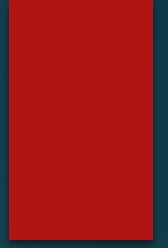
1997



ASFA



Adoption and Safe Families Act (1997)



ASFA Goals:

- ▶ To promote permanency for children in foster care.
- ▶ To ensure safety for abused and neglected children.
- ▶ To accelerate permanent placements of children.
- ▶ To increase accountability of the child welfare system.

ASFA (Cont'd)

- ▶ Safety and well-being of children are paramount concerns
- ▶ Foster care is temporary
 - ▶ **permanency timelines**
- ▶ Termination filings in certain conditions
- ▶ No reasonable efforts regarding removal or reunification necessary in certain circumstances
- ▶ New reasonable efforts expectation when reunification is no longer the goal

Reasonable Efforts Generally

The State must make reasonable efforts to:

- ▶ Maintain the family unit and prevent unnecessary removal of a child from his/her home, as long as child's safety is assured;
- ▶ Effect the safe reunification of the child and family (if temporary out-of-home placement is necessary to ensure immediate safety of the child); and
- ▶ Make and finalize alternate permanency plans in a timely manner when reunification is not appropriate or possible.

Reasonable Efforts to Prevent Removal

When a child is removed from home, a judicial determination as to whether reasonable efforts were made, or were not required, to prevent removal must be made no later than 60 days from the date the child is removed from home.

ASFA (Cont'd)

- ▶ Foster parents' rights to notice and be heard at review
- ▶ Focus on the adoptability of ALL children
- ▶ Contrary to welfare finding in first Court ruling

Contrary to Welfare Determination in First Court Ruling

If “contrary to the welfare” determination is not made in the first court ruling, the child is not eligible for Title IV-E foster care payments for the duration of that stay in foster care.

ASFA (Cont'd)

ASFA'S DIRECT IMPACT ON COURTS



- ◉ More termination cases
- ◉ More adoption, custody, guardianship and relative placement cases
- ◉ More hearings of all of the cases

ASFA (Cont'd)

ASFA Provisions Affecting Judicial Proceedings

- ▶ Reasonable efforts
- ▶ Contrary to welfare determination
- ▶ Foster care placement; limit on court role
- ▶ Permanency hearing deadline
- ▶ Permanency plan set at hearing
- ▶ Permissible plans
- ▶ Reasonable efforts to finalize plan
- ▶ TPR Required; deadline for filing TPR w/in 60 days of felony determination
- ▶ TPR w/in 60 days of abandoned infant determination
- ▶ Exceptions to TPR requirement
- ▶ Adoptive family recruitment at TPR filing

ASFA Permissible Plans

Permissible plans or goals under ASFA

- ▶ Reunification
- ▶ Adoption
- ▶ Permanent Legal Guardianship
- ▶ Placement with a Fit and Willing Relative
- ▶ Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

CHAFEE Foster Care independence Act

- ▶ Provides flexible funding for program services for youth
- ▶ Provides opportunities for States to serve youth likely to remain in foster care and those who have aged out of foster care up to 21 years of age.
- ▶ Enables older youth (18-21) to receive housing assistance if needed.
- ▶ Provides States option of allowing young people to remain eligible for Medicaid up to age 21



Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts Act (SANCA) (2000)

Legislation to improve administrative efficiency and effectiveness of child abuse and neglect courts

- ▶ National Dependency Court Performance Measures
- ▶ <http://www.ojjdp.gov/publications/courtoolkit>



Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001

- ▶ Authorized vouchers for the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.
- ▶ Created matching grant program to support mentoring networks for children of prisoners.
- ▶ Authorized appropriations for FY 2002-06 to promote family support and preservation, as well as time-limited family reunification and adoption.

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and McKinney-Vento

Requires schools, local educational agencies, and states to be held accountable for improving the academic achievement of all students, and identifying and improving low performing schools.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act (in No Child Left Behind)

- ▶ Requires States to ensure homeless children have access to the same public education as other children and youth, including public pre-school programs.

Keeping Children and Families Safe Act

Mandated changes to State Plan eligibility requirements –

- ▶ Required policies and procedures to address the needs of infants born and identified as being affected by prenatal drug exposure
- ▶ Provisions and procedures to require CPS representative to advise an individual of allegations against them at initial contact
- ▶ Implemented programs to increase the number of older children placed in adoptive families
- ▶ Emphasized linkages between child protective services agencies and public health, mental health, and developmental disabilities agencies

Adoption Promotion Act of 2003



- ▶ Reauthorized the adoption incentive program under Title IV-E
- ▶ Provides additional incentives for adoption of older children (age 9 and older) from foster care

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004

- ▶ Public schools must identify children with disabilities (including homeless youth and wards of the state) who may need specialized education and provide them with individualized education programs and related services
 - ▶ **Including services designed to prepare them for employment and independent living**
- ▶ Requires referral to Part C Early Intervention Services for children aged 0-3 involved in substantiated child abuse and neglect cases

Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act (2006)

Improvements to the interstate placement of children:

- ▶ Complete home studies requested by another State w/in specified period;
- ▶ Accept home studies received from another State w/in specified period;
- ▶ **Requires court determine at permanency hearing whether child's out-of-home placement continues to be appropriate and in child's best interests;**
- ▶ State must provide child's health and education records at no cost upon leaving foster care; and
- ▶ In order to continue to receive CIP funds, the highest Court in the state must have a rule that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers are notified of proceedings.

Child and Family Services Improvement Act (2006)

Amends Title IV-B and IV-E:

- ▶ State's case review system must include procedures that ensure the court consult, in an age-appropriate manner, with the child regarding proposed permanency or transition plan for the child;
- ▶ Targeted grants to improve well-being and permanency outcomes for children affected by methamphetamine;
- ▶ State must have procedures for child welfare system to respond to disasters; and
- ▶ State plans for child welfare services must describe standards and frequency of caseworker visits with children in foster care (minimum of a monthly visit).

Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act (2006)

Acts to protect children from sexual exploitation and violent crime, to prevent child abuse and child pornography, and to promote internet safety.

- ▶ Title I, Subtitle C requires national criminal background and child abuse registry checks before approval of any foster or adoptive placement.

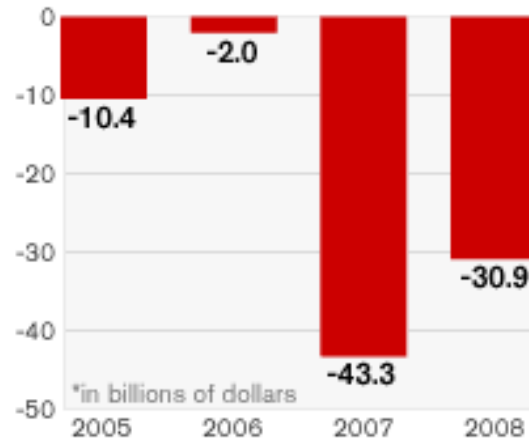




2008

GM's sea of red ink

Losses at GM over the past four years*



*in billions of dollars
NET LOSSES FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS
SOURCE: COMPANY REPORTS

Fostering Connections

50!

FLASH BACK THROUGH THE DECADES WITH THE THREE BIGGEST POP ICONS OF THE '80S AS THEY TURN 50 THIS SUMMER. PLUS: PERKS OF HITTING A HALF CENTURY

MADONNA born 8/16/58

- 1976** Sporting a conservative do in high school.
- 1984** *Desperately Seeking Susan* marked the Material Girl's big-screen breakthrough.
- 1990** Jean Paul Gaultier created her infamous cone-bra.
- 2008** She danced into the wee hours at her 50th-birthday bash in London.

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (2008)

▶ **Kinship guardianship assistance payments**

- ▶ Amends title IV-E to allow states to provide guardianship payments for children in FC who are being cared for by relatives provided they have been in FC for 6 consecutive mos. and are eligible for FC maintenance payments
- ▶ Allows children who leave FC after age 16 for kinship guardianship or adoption to be eligible for independent living services and education and training vouchers

Fostering Connections (Cont'd)

▶ Maintaining Family Relationships

▶ Identifying and locating kin

- ▶ Establishes program to provide grants for activities designed to keep children in FC (or those at risk of entering FC) connected with their families
- ▶ Funds can be used for kinship navigator programs, family finding efforts, family group decision-making meetings within the child welfare system, or residential States must substance abuse treatment programs for families

▶ Sibling Placement

- ▶ make reasonable efforts to place siblings in the same FC placement
- ▶ If siblings can't be placed together, the state must make reasonable efforts to provide frequent visitations among the siblings.

Fostering Connections (Cont'd)

▶ Improving Outcomes for Older Youth

- ▶ States may extend adoption assistance and/or guardianship payments for youth aged 19, 20, or 21
- ▶ States may provide care and support to youth until the age of 19, 20, or 21 if the youth is:
 - ▶ Completing high school or an equivalency program; enrolled in vocational school; participating in a program to remove employment barriers; employed 80 hours/month; or if there is an existing medical condition that prohibits the youth from doing any of these activities

Fostering Connections (Cont'd)

▶ Improving Outcomes for Older Youth (Cont'd)

▶ Transition Planning

- ▶ Requires agency to help youth develop a transition plan during the 90-day period immediately preceding the date the youth ages out of FC.
- ▶ The plan must be detailed and contain the input of the youth. The plan must include:
 - ▶ Options on housing, health insurance, education, opportunities for mentoring, continuing support services, and work force and employment supports

Fostering Connections (Cont'd)

▶ Educational stability

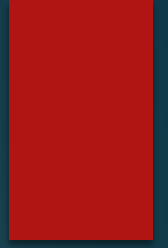
- ▶ Requires agency to coordinate with local education agencies to ensure that the child remain in their original school if in the child's best interests
- ▶ If not in the child's best interests, the state must provide assurances that the child is immediately enrolled in a new school and all records are transferred
- ▶ The FC maintenance payment may be used to fund transportation costs to the child's school
- ▶ Every state is required in their IV-E plans to provide assurances that every school-age child receiving an adoption assistance payment is enrolled full time in school or has completed school

Fostering Connections (Cont'd)

▶ Health Needs

- ▶ State is required to work with the Medicaid agency to develop, with the consultation of pediatricians and other experts, a plan to coordinate the healthcare needs of children in foster care that includes health screenings, oversight of medication, and steps taken to ensure continuity of medical homes for children if needed.

Fostering Connections (Cont'd)



- ▶ Tribal Access to IV-E funds
 - ▶ Allows tribes to directly access and administer IV-E funds by submitting a plan to the federal government
 - ▶ Allows tribes to access part of the state's Chafee Foster Care Independence Program funds
 - ▶ Requires the HHS secretary to provide technical and implementation assistance and grants to tribes to help them to administer their own programs

Fostering Connections (Cont'd)

▶ Adoption Incentives

- ▶ Allows states to receive an additional \$1,000 per adoption of a child from foster care
- ▶ Expands the Adoption Incentive Grant Program for five more years and awards \$8,000 per child nine and older and \$4,000 per child with special needs (doubles old rates)
- ▶ States required to inform all people who are adopting or may adopt a child from state custody of their potential eligibility for the adoption tax credit
- ▶ Eligibility for federal funding of adoption assistance is “de-linked” from AFDC eligibility requirements. This will allow more children with special needs to be adopted with federal funding support
 - ▶ Phased in over nine years beginning with children 16 and older who will be the first to be de-linked from the AFDC requirement
 - ▶ Any child in care over 60 consecutive months is eligible as well as that child's siblings

Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (2011)

- ▶ In a plan for ongoing oversight and coordination of health care services, agency must outline
 - ▶ How it monitors and treats emotional trauma
 - ▶ Protocols for appropriate use and monitoring of psychotropic meds as part of its current oversight of prescription meds
- ▶ Agencies must describe activities undertaken to 1) reduce length of time kids under 5 are w/o a permanent family and 2) address the developmental needs of kids
- ▶ Agencies must meet educational stability case plan requirement at time of each placement change, not just at initial placement as with Fostering Connections
- ▶ Requires each child 16 + to receive a copy of any consumer credit report each year until discharged from FC and must be assisted in interpreting credit report and resolving inconsistencies

Uninterrupted Scholars Act (2013)

- ▶ Amends provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to permit educational agencies or institutions participating in a DOE program to release records or identifiable information without parental consent to agency caseworker or other representative of a state or local child welfare agency or tribal organization authorized to access a student's case plan when agencies or organizations are legally responsible for the care and protection of the student.
- ▶ Sets forth conditions for disclosing education records to an entity engaged in addressing the student's education needs
- ▶ Permits release of records and information without additional notice to parents and students when a parent is a party to a court proceeding involving child abuse and neglect or dependency matters



2014



Preventing Sex
Trafficking
& Strengthening
Families Act

Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (2014)

- ▶ Requires agency to act promptly when children go missing
- ▶ Promotes “normalcy” for children in foster care
 - ▶ Reasonable Prudent Parent Standard
- ▶ Mandates that for every Permanency Hearing the agency must document on the record “intensive, ongoing, unsuccessful efforts for family placement”
- ▶ No plan of APPLA for children under 16
- ▶ During review of an APPLA plan, child must now be asked about their desired permanency outcome
- ▶ If APPLA remains the goal, in every case there must be a judicial determination at that hearing of compelling reasons why APPLA remains best permanency plan for that child

Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Cont'd)

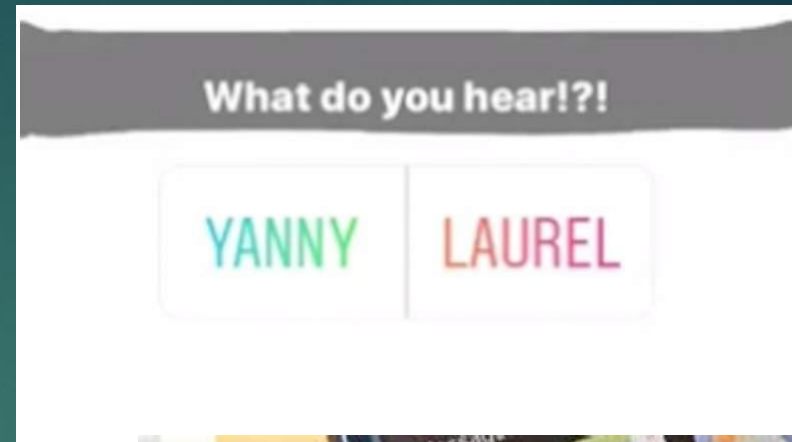
- ▶ Encourages sibling placements
- ▶ Empowers foster youth at the earlier age of 14
 - ▶ May select up to 2 individuals to be involved in developing the case plan
 - ▶ Requires case plan includes a “rights document”
- ▶ Mandates receipt of key documents upon leaving foster care at 18 or later

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- ▶ Advances equity by upholding critical protections for America's disadvantaged and high-need students.
- ▶ Requires—for the first time—that all students in America be taught to high academic standards that will prepare them to succeed in college and careers.
- ▶ Ensures that vital information is provided to educators, families, students, and communities through annual statewide assessments that measure students' progress toward those high standards.
- ▶ Helps to support and grow local innovations—including evidence-based and place-based interventions developed by local leaders and educators—consistent with our [Investing in Innovation](#) and [Promise Neighborhoods](#)
- ▶ Sustains and expands this administration's historic investments in increasing access to high-quality [preschool](#).
- ▶ Maintains an expectation that there will be accountability and action to effect positive change in our lowest-performing schools, where groups of students are not making progress, and where graduation rates are low over extended periods of time

Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) (2016)

- ▶ Expands prevention and educational efforts—particularly aimed at teens, parents and other caretakers, and aging populations—to prevent the abuse of methamphetamines, opioids and heroin, and to promote treatment and recovery
- ▶ Expands availability of naloxone to law enforcement agencies and other first responders to help in the reversal of overdoses to save lives
- ▶ Expands resources to identify and treat incarcerated individuals suffering from addiction disorders promptly by collaborating with criminal justice stakeholders and by providing evidence-based treatment
- ▶ Expands disposal sites for unwanted prescription medications to keep them out of the hands of our children and adolescents
- ▶ Launches an evidence-based opioid and heroin treatment and intervention program to expand best practices throughout the country
- ▶ Launches a medication-assisted treatment and intervention demonstration program
- ▶ Strengthens prescription drug monitoring programs to help states monitor and track prescription drug diversion and to help at-risk individuals access services



2018



FFPSA

Family First Prevention Services Act (2018)

- ▶ “[T]he biggest change to the structure of child welfare finance since the establishment of the Title IV-E entitlement in 1980.” ~ *The Chronicle of Social Change*
- ▶ “The Children's Bureau believes reaching children and families sooner through prevention is the key to avoiding unnecessary trauma, disrupting intergenerational cycles of maltreatment, and achieving better outcomes for children and families.” ~Jerry Milner, Associate Commissioner, CB/DHHS

Family First Prevention Services Act

(2018)

- ▶ Allows for **flexible use of IV-B and IV-E funds** for mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services, in-home parent skill-based programs, and kinship navigator services involving children who may be at risk of entering foster care or are pregnant/parenting youth in foster care.
- ▶ Services and programs are to be **trauma-informed**.
- ▶ Limitations on federal funds for placements that are not with family or in a foster home.
- ▶ **Ensure that children in foster care placements are not inappropriately diagnosed** with mental illness, other emotional or behavioral disorders, medically fragile conditions, or developmental disabilities, and placed in settings that are not foster family homes as a result of the inappropriate diagnoses.

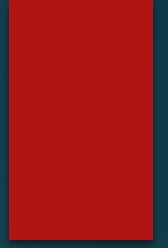
Prevention Services

- ▶ The central feature of the bill is that states will now be able to use funds derived from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act – the entitlement that pays for child welfare – for “time-limited” services aimed at preventing the use of foster care in maltreatment cases.
 - ▶ Previously, IV-E was only allowable for spending on foster care placements and for assistance to adoptive families.

Prevention and Family Services

- ▶ Eligible children and parents:
 - ▶ Birth parents, adoptive parents, relative & non-relative guardians of candidates for FC
 - ▶ “Candidates” for FC (child @serious/imminent risk of removal)
 - ▶ Pregnant/parenting youth in FC
- ▶ Eligible Services/Programs:
 - ▶ Prevention services: mental health services, substance abuse prevention and treatment, in-home parent skill-based programs
 - ▶ Other services: Kindship Navigator Program, residential parent-child substance abuse treatment program
 - ▶ No more than 12 months per candidate episode
 - ▶ Must meet evidence-based requirements and be trauma-informed
 - ▶ Promising, Supported, Well-Supported Practice
 - ▶ Services provided by qualified clinician

Ensuring necessity of placement that isn't a foster family home



- ▶ Restricting congregate care
- ▶ Beginning 14 days after entry into foster care, federal reimbursement for FC payment limited to:
 - ▶ Family foster home
 - ▶ Child-caring institution (licensed, private/public, <25 children) that is one of following settings:
 - ▶ Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)
 - ▶ Setting specializing in prenatal, post-partum, or parenting supports for youth
 - ▶ Supervised setting for 18+ who're living independently
 - ▶ Setting providing hi-quality, residential care and supportive services to kids who've been/at risk of being sex-trafficking victims

Qualified Residential Treatment Program

- ▶ Q RTP requirements:
 - ▶ Trauma-informed treatment model designed to meet specific, clinical needs of children (identified in assessment)
 - ▶ Has registered/licensed nursing and clinical staff (onsite, available 24/7)
 - ▶ Facilitates family participation in child's treatment program, family outreach ,integration of family into treatment
 - ▶ Provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare supports for 6+ months post discharge
- ▶ Assessment to Determine Appropriateness of Placement
 - ▶ Must be completed within 30 days of Q RTP placement in conjunction w/ family and permanency team meeting
 - ▶ If Q RTP is determined necessary, professional must document why needs can't be met in a family
 - ▶ If placement isn't supported, states have 30 days to move child to eligible placement or risk losing federal reimbursement
- ▶ Monitoring:
 - ▶ Court review within 60 days of Q RTP placement, state to present evidence
 - ▶ Child welfare director approval for kids in Q RTP placement for 12/18 months(@6 for kids <13)

Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act of 2018

- ▶ Amends CAPTA to provide immunity from civil and criminal liability (it previously provided immunity only from prosecution) for people who make good faith child abuse or neglect reports or who provide information or assistance, including medical evaluations or consultations, in connection with a report, investigation, or legal intervention pursuant to a good faith report of child abuse or neglect

Family First Transition Act

- ▶ modifies the requirement that at least 50% of title IV-E prevention services expenditures be for "well supported" practices
- ▶ authorizes funding for FFPSA transition grants



2020



Covid-19 Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act

- ▶ Increases age limit of Chafee services in FY20 and FY21 to age 26
- ▶ Suspends education and training requirement during duration of the public health emergency □
- ▶ Permits states to use more than 30% of Chafee funds for housing
- ▶ Prohibits aging out of foster care during the pandemic
- ▶ Permits the re-entry of youth in foster care that age out during the pandemic
- ▶ Permits the Court Improvement Program to use funding for purposes related to the public health emergency
- ▶ Waives FFPSA state match requirement during the public health state of emergency (for expenditures on eligible evidence-based programs)

Justice-Oriented System

- ▶ Together we can work to:
 - ▶ strengthen families,
 - ▶ reduce unnecessary parent-child separation,
 - ▶ disentangle poverty and neglect,
 - ▶ squarely address disparities,
 - ▶ empower communities to support families, and
 - ▶ promote family well-being and integrity instead of threatening to destroy it.

Justice-Oriented System

- ▶ Get serious about reasonable efforts
- ▶ High-quality legal representation for children, parents, agencies
- ▶ Broad-based community services
- ▶ Protect integrity of family-child relationship through family time and permanency
- ▶ Partner parenting: foster care is a support to families, not substitute for parents
- ▶ 18+ need connections and relational permanency
- ▶ Kindness is the main intervention that's needed.



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