



# LIMPOPO

## PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### SERVICE PACKAGE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

##### 1. INTRODUCTION

Services for children and families are rendered by Designated Child Protection Organizations (DCPO). All DCPO's must comply with the prescribed norms and standards in relation to the child protection services they provide.

##### 2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To provide integrated services to children and their families.

##### 3. PRINCIPLES

- Respect, protect, promote and fulfil the child's rights set out in the Bill of Rights, the best interests of the child standard set out in section 7 and the rights and principles set out in this Act, subject to any lawful limitation.
- Preservation and strengthening of families
- Promotion of family care or parental care or alternative care for children removed from their family environment.
- If it is in the best interests of the child, the child's family must be given the opportunity to express their views in any matter concerning the child.
- Removal of child from family environment be used as last resort
- Protection of children from maltreatment, neglect, abuse and degradation.
- Treat families fairly and equitably.
- Protect the child from unfair discrimination on any ground, including on the grounds of the health status or disability of the child or a family member of the child;
- Recognise a child's need for development and to engage in play and other recreational activities appropriate to the child's age; and
- Child participation
- Confidentiality

##### 4. VALUES

- Responsiveness
- Accountability
- Professionalism
- Honesty and Integrity
- Fairness and Equity
- Respect and Dignity
- Teamwork and Partnership
- Openness and Transparency
- Innovation
- Quality
- Child participation

## 5. **DEFINITIONS**

**Abuse**, in relation to a child, means any form of harm or ill-treatment deliberately inflicted on a child, and includes-

- assaulting a child or inflicting any other form of deliberate injury to a child;
- sexually abusing a child or allowing a child to be sexually abused;
- bullying by another child;
- a labour practice that exploits a child; or
- exposing or subjecting a child to behaviour that may harm the child psychologically or emotionally;

**Adoption service** includes-

- counselling of the parent of the child and, where applicable, the child;
- an assessment of a child by an adoption social worker in terms of section 230 (2) of the Children's Act 38 of 2005
- an assessment of a prospective adoptive parent by an adoption social worker in terms of section 231 (2) of the Act
- the gathering of information for proposed adoptions as contemplated in section 237; and
- a report contemplated in section 239 (1) (b) of the Act

### **Alternative care**

A child is in alternative care if the child has been placed-

- in foster care;
- in the care of a child and youth care centre following an order of a court in terms of this Act or
- the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act 51 of 1977); or in temporary safe care. '

**Assessment of a child** means a process of investigating the developmental needs of a child, including his or her family environment or any other circumstances that may have a bearing on the child's need for protection and therapeutic services.

**Care-giver** means any person other than a parent or guardian, who factually cares for a child and includes-

- a foster parent;
- a person who cares for a child with the implied or express consent of a parent or guardian of the child;
- a person who cares for a child whilst the child is in temporary safe care;

- the person at the head of a child and youth care centre where a child has been placed;
- the person at the head of a shelter;
- a child and youth care worker who cares for a child who is without appropriate family care in the community; and
- the child at the head of a child-headed household

**Child** means a person under the age of 18 years; \*

**Children's court** means a children's court referred to in section 42 of the Act;

**Designated child protection organisation** means an organisation designated in terms of section 107 of the Act to perform designated child protection services;

**Designated child protection service** means a child protection service referred to in section 105 of the Act.

**Early intervention programme** means a programme referred to in section 143 (2) of the Act.

**Family:** a group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood, adoption or cohabitation, characterized by a common residence or not interacting and communicating with one another in their respective family roles, maintaining a common culture and governed by family roles.

**Family member**, in relation to a child, means-

- a parent of the child;
- any other person who has parental responsibilities and rights in respect of the child;
- a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt or cousin of the child; or
- any other person with whom the child has developed a significant relationship, based on psychological or emotional attachment, which resembles a family relationship;

**Foster care** means care of a child as described in section 180 (1) of the Act and includes foster care in a registered cluster foster care scheme.

**Guardian** means a parent or other person who has guardianship of a child.

**Parent**, in relation to a child, includes the adoptive parent of a child, but excludes-

- the biological father of a child conceived through the rape of or incest with the child's mother;
- any person who is biologically related to a child by reason only of being a gamete donor for purposes of artificial fertilisation; and
- a parent whose parental responsibilities and rights in respect of a child have been terminated;

## 6. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1979) (UNCRC)
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990)
- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996
- The Children's Act No. 38 of 2005
- Children's Act minimum norms and standards
- Information Guide on the Management of Statutory Services in terms of the Children's Act 38 of 2005.
- Guideline on National Adoption
- Guideline on International Adoptions
- Psychosocial Support Intervention Guidelines for Vulnerable Children and Youth

- White Paper on Families
- Guideline Family Preservation
- Marriage Preparation and Enrichment
- Fatherhood Strategy
- Guideline on Mediation
- Guideline on Re-Unification Services
- Guideline on Active Parenting of Teenagers
- Guideline on Positive values and moral re-generation
- Guidelines on USMC in South Africa and Southern Africa children in distress in other countries

**7. SERVICES PROVIDED BY DESIGNATED CHILD PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS**

All the following or any specific designated child protection services may be provided by a DCPO: Services relating to-

- (a) Prevention services
  - life-skills:
  - 356 days on child protection
  - teenage pregnancy
- (b) Early intervention services.
- (c) The reunification of children in alternative care with their families.
- (d) The integration of children into alternative care arrangements.
- (e) The placement of children in alternative care;
  - Foster care
  - Child and Youth Care Centre
  - Temporary safe care with private persons
  - Temporary safe care in a facility
- (f) The adoption of children, including inter-country adoptions;
  - adoption services
- (g) Services aimed at supporting-
  - The proceedings of children's courts; and
  - The implementation of court orders;
- (h) The carrying out of investigations and the making of assessments, in cases of suspected abuse, neglect or abandonment of children.
- (i) Intervention and removal of children in appropriate cases.
- (j) The drawing up of individual development plans and permanency plans for children removed, or at risk of being removed, from their family.
- (k) developmental assessment
- (l) Counselling
  - individual
  - Debriefing and trauma counselling
  - Grief counselling
  - Group counselling
  - Family counselling
- (q) Referral to other professionals
- (r) Parenting programmes. (teen parenting programmes)
- (s) Mediation services.
- (x) After care services
  - Providing after care services conducting sessions with family members.
  - Supervision of children placed in foster care and
  - Supervision of children discharged from CYCC.

- Review the court order of the child and extensions
- Render after care services for beneficiaries from treatment centres
- Render after care services for beneficiaries diversion programmes

## 8. DESIGNATION OF CHILD PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS

All child protection organizations must be designated in terms of section 107(1), (2) by the Head of the Department of Social Development, on written application, provided that the organization that complies with the prescribed criteria to perform all or any specific designated child protection. The Provincial Head of Social Development may assign to a designated Child Protection organization such powers and duties necessary for the proper provision of designation of Child protection Services by the organization.

Designated Child Protection Organizations must be accredited to render adoption services in terms of section 251 of the Children's Act.

## 9. INDICATORS

ACTIVITY	INDICATORS
✓ Family preservation services	✓ Number of family members participating in Family Preservation services
✓ Reunification services	✓ Number of family members re-united with their families.
✓ Parenting programmes	✓ Number of family members participating in parenting programmes.
✓ Child protection services	✓ Number of reported cases of child abuse
✓ Child protection services	✓ Number of children with valid foster care orders.
✓ Alternative care services	✓ Number of children placed in foster care.
	✓ Number of children placed in temporary safe care with private persons
	✓ Number of children placed in Child and Youth Care Centers.
✓ Reunification of children	✓ Number of children in CYCCs re-unified with their families
✓ After care	✓ Number of family members receiving after care services
✓ Mediation services	✓ Number of family members receiving mediation services