

Glossary

Accreditation

The acknowledgment and verification that an organization fulfills explicit, specified standards. For example, public and private child and family service agencies may apply for accreditation with several accrediting bodies—including the Council on Accreditation—conduct self-assessments, and undergo periodic accreditation reviews to ensure that they meet quality standards.

Adoption

The social, emotional, and legal process through which children who will not be raised by their birth parents become full and permanent legal members of another family while maintaining genetic and psychological connections to their birth family.

Assessment

The ongoing practice of informing decision-making by identifying, considering, and weighing factors that impact children, youth, and their families. Assessment occurs from the time children and families come to the attention of the child welfare system and continues until case closure.

Change of Use - more correctly referred to as a 'material change of use'. A change in the use of land or buildings that is of significance for planning purposes, often requiring planning permission.

Derelict Land - Land so damaged by industrial or other development that it is incapable of beneficial use without treatment.