Clinical Guidelines and Service Definitions

Relinquishment Counseling

Funding Stream
This is funded by Core Services if no other resources are available.

Definition of Service

- **Service goals are centered on promoting child and family safety and family protective capacity.**
- Counseling is required by law for any parent considering or desiring to relinquish parental rights to his or her child(ren). Article 19-5-103 (1) (a) of the Colorado Children’s Code states “that the counseling may be obtained from the county department of social services in the county where such parent resides or from a licensed child placement agency.” The court may also order counseling for the child to be relinquished if the court feels the counseling is in the child’s best interest. The counseling must comply with state regulations for the relinquishment procedure and according to the Children’s Code and “shall include, but not be limited to the following: (a) Information to the relinquishing parent concerning the permanence of the decision and the impact of such decision on the relinquishing parent now and in the future, (b) Information concerning each parent’s complete medical and social histories; (c) In the case of pregnancy, referral of the woman for medical care and for determination of eligibility for medical assistance, (d) Information concerning alternatives to relinquishment and referral to private and public resources that may meet the parent’s needs, (e) Relinquishment services necessary to protect the interests and welfare of a child born in a state institution, (f) Information to the child’s parent that if he or she applies for public assistance for himself or herself and the child, he or she must cooperate with the child support enforcement unit for the establishment and enforcement of a child support order,” (g) the information “obtained by the department and the child placement agency in the course of relinquishment counseling” is deemed confidential “unless the parent provides written permission or a release of information.”

Measurement of Success

- Client demonstrates empathy for the experiences and needs of their children.
- Client demonstrates ability to explain what their protective role and responsibilities entail, the consequences to the children should they fail to protect, and is able to articulate and demonstrate that they value and believe it is their primary responsibility to protect the children.

Estimated Length of Treatment:
Up to six hours over one to six sessions

Frequency of Services:
One time per occurrence of relinquishment procedure
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**Provider Credentials:**
Be Licensed or have a Master’s Degree and has passed State of Colorado written licensing exam in any one of the mental health licensing areas (LPC, LMFT, LCSW).

Be under the supervision of a licensed clinician at a child placement agency who has experience providing Relinquishment Counseling.

**Provider Responsibilities:**
An Affidavit of Relinquishment, and any other paperwork required by the courts, signed by the provider and the client stating that Relinquishment Counseling was completed as required.

**Caseworker Responsibilities:**
Refer to Core Services Handbook or Provider Manual.

**Staffing:**
Not applicable.