

**Overview:**

Understand the child welfare system and how it operates; know the key players and their roles; aware of critical child welfare laws that have shaped child welfare; understand the role of the court system and how decisions get made; aware of reasons children enter the child welfare system and the types of maltreatment children may face; understand the permanency options that exist for children and the importance of being considerate of a child's sense of time.

**Knowledge Competencies:**

- Understand the role court plays in determining permanence for a child.
- Understand the rights and responsibilities of parents who are fostering.
- Understand the different types of maltreatment and how children come to the attention of the child welfare system.
- Can identify key players in child welfare and their roles in the child welfare system.
- Knowledge of how the child welfare system has developed over the years.

**Attitude Competencies:**

- Values daily caregiving for children as a fundamental role for parents who are fostering.
- Willing to accept their role on the child welfare team and the roles of other team members.
- Willing to accept the fact that although parents who are fostering are critical in the care of children, other stakeholders in the child welfare system ultimately will make critical decisions for the children.

**Target Audience:**

This theme is specific to families who are going to foster/adopt through the child welfare system.