USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

NATIONAL FOUNDATION
FOR THE PREVENTION
OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

PACKAGE OF SERVICES FOR CHILD ABUSE AND SOCIAL ABANDONMENT PREVENTION

A Brief Description of Services

Moscow 2011

1. INFORMATION IN-TAKE ON VIOLATIONS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND LEGAL INTERESTS (CLIENT IDENTIFICATION)

This service works to centralize the processes of information intake by specialists working with families and children in cases of child rights violations. The provision of services ensures that child protection authorities receive information and respond to instances in a timely manner.

2. INFORMATIONAL AND METHODOLOGICAL SUPPORT IN IDENTIFYING CHILDREN IN NEED OF PROTECTION BY THE STATE

In this service, specialists working with children are trained how to identify child abuse, about the consequences of child abuse, and skills for the early detection of abuse. As a result of the training specialists understand the rationale of early detection; the training prepares them to confidently use new methods.

3. CHILD ABUSE RISK AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT (FAMILY ASSESSMENT)

This service assesses the safety level of the child at home and the risk present for child abuse. The results from the assessment become the basis for decision-making about the need for the child to come under the protection of the state. The service allows for quick identification and therefore, protection, of children whose rights have been violated.

4. COORDINATING CASES INVOLVING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

The service appoints a case manager to each case involving a children's rights violation. The main task of the case manager is to ensure that the plan for protecting the child's rights and interests is being carried out by specialists. Families receive quality service provision and their ability to independently observe the rights of the child and protect his or her interests is restored.

5. ORGANIZING AND CONDUCTING INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEETINGS TO ASSESS AND MONITOR REHABILITATION PLANS FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN (CONTROL OF INTERVENTIONS, EVALUATION, AND CASE CLOSEOUT)

This service provides professional quality control of child welfare specialists. This includes regular group consultations for experienced specialists to discuss how the plan to protect the rights and interests of the child is being implemented, the plan's efficacy and monitoring results.

6. PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR CHILD RIGHTS PROTECTION ACTIVITIES (SUPERVISION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS)

The main task of supervision is to assist the specialist in identifying mistakes and understanding the nature of professional difficulties during the quality control process. Results from supervision form the basis for planning future case work and an individual training plan for the specialist. Supervision is an important step in preventing emotional burnout among child welfare specialists.

7. EMERGENCY PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN OVER THE TELEPHONE (CHILD HELPLINES)

This service provides emergency psychological assistance to children and adolescents in crisis or encountering difficult circumstances, as well as to their parents or other parental figures. Service is rendered immediately, anonymously and confidentially, and includes listening, psychological support, and crisis intervention. The helpline assists in the processing of traumatic experiences and the prevention of suicide and violence.

8. COUNSELING AND TRAINING FAMILIES AT-RISK OF NEWBORN ABANDONMENT

Newborn abandonment prevention happens through the identification of women at-risk of abandonment in health facilities, alerting services about the situation and providing crisis counseling. In cases where the woman changes her mind to abandon her child, she is provided with assistance (help with childcare, addressing domestic issues, and employment), to resolve issues which led to the original intent to abandon.

9. HOME HELPERS (IN-HOME SOCIAL SUPPORT)

The goal of the service is to reduce the risk of child abuse by providing training in parenting skills and basic domestic skills. Home-helpers are specially-trained middle-aged women who have had positive parenting experiences raising their own children. Service efficacy is visible through parents' increased understanding of the needs of the child, a decrease in instances of aggression, and in the improvement of the family's living conditions. The overall result: the preservation of the child's family.

10. FAMILY CLUBS (CREATING A REHABILITATIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN)

The Family Club is a specially-created environment for communication with thematic classes, workshops and consulting service. Professionals are invited to speak, including lawyers, psychologists, librarians, club employees, event managers, etc. Club members interact in a safe and comfortable atmosphere which fosters acceptance, the exchange of experiences and the giving and receiving of support from each other and from specialists. As a result, parents improve their parenting skills, cease using physical punishment as a discipline method and the risk of abuse is reduced.

11. SHORT-TERM FAMILY CRISIS COUNSELING

The service provides short-term psychological and educational assistance in situations or conditions of acute crisis. The service includes: informing parents of the negative consequences of child abuse; the provision of psychological support to children who have experienced trauma; restoring the child-parent relationship; and parenting skills improvement (increasing parental competencies). Counseling may take the form of individual work with parents and the child or family counseling.

12. AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS PROVIDING PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT TO AT-RISK CHILDREN

The service helps prevent school dropout and reduces the time the child spends without parental supervision. The work schedule of the after-school programs allows time for classes based on personal interest and those of a psychological or educational nature and time for homework and play. Children are also provided with a hot meal. Remedial classes help the child improve his/her school performance, resolve conflicts with other children, and improve their relationships with their parents.

13. REHABILITATIVE LEISURE (AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING COUNSELING AND TRAINING)

Rehabilitative leisure activity (sports, travel, art, theater, etc.) is organized at child development centers, community centers, libraries, schools or sports facilities. Rehabilitative leisure gives children in need support in difficult times, a means of coping with stress, social interaction skills, positive attitudes toward themselves and their future, the desire and ability to make friends, and the confidence and satisfaction that comes with being successful in social situations. As a result, the child breaks away from their asocial environment and integrates successfully into society.

14. ANGER MANAGEMENT (GROUP WORK WITH AT-RISK PARENTS OR GUARDIANS USING PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT OR WHO ARE PRONE TO VIOLENCE)

Parents are referred to the group by law enforcement officials after there has been an incident involving child abuse or domestic violence in the home. The tasks of the group include cultivating a negative conception of physical punishment in the parents; teaching them control of their emotions; informing them on the nature of anger and how to manage it; teaching parents effective discipline methods; and training them in confident and safe behavior during family conflict.

15. GROUP WORK WITH CHILDREN INVOLVED IN FIGHTING AND/OR BULLYING

Group work with children from 7 to 14 years of age with a history of aggression towards peers (frequent, severe fighting) led by a psychologist. Typically these children have experienced abuse themselves at the hands of their parents. The group will teach children how to release tension and how to overcome defensive postures. Healing after trauma and decreasing the child's aggressive behavior is achieved by teaching the child relaxation techniques and how to recognize and track aggression and other emotions. Aggressive feelings are reduced as the child is able to speak out about and talk through emotional challenges and learns safe skills.

16. EARLY, INTERDISCIPLINARY INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES FROM AGES ZERO TO FOUR

The service involves the use of an interdisciplinary team of specialists and a system of various measures aimed at providing early assistance to children and psycho-social support to parents. An individual plan of assistance is developed for each child based on the needs of the child and the family. Thanks to this service, conditions are created for the child's optimal development and adaptation in society, as well as the early integration of children and the socialization of the family in general.

17. NORMALIZING FAMILY LIFE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The service establishes assistance programs for children with disabilities through the use of local communities in a natural home environment. Further, the service teaches children with disabilities and their families proper care and self-reliance skills. The result: the normalization of family life and the improvement of the child's quality of life.

18. SUPPORT GROUPS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The service involves group work with parents under the guidance of a psychologist. Work is targeted at overcoming psychological issues connected with raising a child with disabilities (feelings of guilt, shame, fear, loneliness and meaninglessness), and eliciting help from other families. Parents gain confidence in their parenting and a positive parent-child relationship is established, leading to a lower risk of violence and abuse.

19. SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY HIV

This service works to prevent children affected by HIV from being orphaned or abandoned through comprehensive medical, social, and psychological assistance for HIV-positive pregnant women and children born to HIV-infected mothers. The result: the HIV-positive mother is able to properly care for herself and her child and adheres to treatment plans and is committed to learning how to care for her child. The service also addresses social issues (employment, school registration, living conditions, applying for social benefits, etc.). As a result, the child's birth family is preserved and the child is cared for by his/her own mother.

20. SELECTION AND TRAINING OF LEGAL GUARDIANS, ADOPTIVE FAMILIES AND FOSTER FAMILIES

This service selects and trains families for orphaned and abandoned children. Training focuses on assisting prospective parents/guardians in understanding their own motivations, personal abilities, and preparedness to accept an orphan into their home. The service is dedicated to achieving optimal family-based care for the child and increasing the parenting knowledge and skills of prospective parents and/or guardians.

21. COUNSELING AND SUPPORT FOR LEGAL GUARDIANS, ADOPTIVE FAMILIES AND FOSTER FAMILIES

This service consists of providing comprehensive support to prevent family crisis and overcome the difficulties in childrearing that face foster and adoptive families. Pedagogical, psychological and social support is provided to the adoptive/foster family, or legal guardian. This includes counseling on common family and age-related conflicts; family visits to monitor the child's adaptation; and raising awareness on current psycho-pedagogical and social-legal issues relating to raising the child. This is carried out over the entire course of the child's residence in the family. The result is preventing subsequent abandonment of the child (the second such experience of the child).

22. CLUB FOR LEGAL GUARDIANS (CREATING A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT)

The club arranges informal support groups to help guardians overcome common challenges faced by the adoptive families, increase their parenting abilities and provide mutual support and exchange of experience. Activities include free time for discussion; psychological, legal, social and medical consultation; and the organization of joint activities, excursions, summer trips and other ways to promote leisure and relaxation for children and guardians.

23. FAMILY PLACEMENT PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN IN ORPHANAGES

Specialized psycho-pedagogical work to prepare orphans and other children without parental care for life in a family is provided in this service. This service includes psychological support for the child and collecting the child's family, medical and developmental history. The service aims to prepare the child and increase his/her desire to become a part of their new family.

24. WORKPLACE MENTORING

The service fosters orphanage graduates' adaptation in the workplace to assist in acquiring job skills and prevent asocial behavior. The mentor provides the professional support needed to help the graduate adapt to the workplace, integrate successfully into the social environment, and to encourage career-growth. As a result, the graduate is successfully integrated into the workplace and transitions to self-support.

25. PREPARATION FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

The service includes psychological, educational, social and domestic support when orphanage graduates move transition to independent living. The result: the graduate is able to deal with social and domestic challenges and is able to provide for him/herself.

- Services directed at decision-making in case management: 1-6
- Services for all target groups: 7
- Services for families and children at the early crisis stage: 8-15
- Services for families and children with disabilities: 16-19
- Services for foster families: 20-22
- Services for children in orphanages and orphanage graduates: 23-25

This study is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of NFPCC and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

NFPCC address: 30-1, Pokrovka St., Moscow 105062, Russia

Tel. +7 495 956 1400

Fax +7 495 917 1423

www.sirotstvo.ru

Award number 118-A-00-10-00047-00
USAID/Russia

Descriptive title	Author name	Development objective	Date
Package of Services for Child Abuse and Social Abandonment Prevention	Under the editorship of M.O. Egorova	Booklet in English and Russian for dissemination in Russian regions and among foreign stakeholders	2011