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| **Role** | **Description** |
| **Parent** | The parent nurtures and raises a child. They provide encouragement, support, and access to activities that assist the child in mastering developmental tasks. |
| **Parent Partner** | Parent Partners are parents who have had their children removed from their care because of a CPS safety concern. They support parents in child protective services whose children are in out-of-home care. |
| **Coordinator** | The coordinator supervises the Parent Partners, coordinates program components, and promotes systems change. |
| **CPS Professional** | The CPS Professional is responsible for gathering information, making decisions concerning the safety of the children, connecting the family with services, coordinating the activities of the team, and presenting information to the court about the child and family. |
| **Tribal CPS Professional** | The Tribal CPS Professional role is the same as any CPS Professional, along with ensuring the child receives services that reflect the customs, beliefs, and traditions of the tribe. They also maintain the child’s connection to the tribe. |
| **Foster Parent** | The Foster Parent partners with the parents and temporarily cares for a child until the child’s permanence goal is achieved. They are responsible for ensuring the child’s basic needs are met and including the family in as much of the child’s life as possible. |
| [**Kinship Care**](https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/kinship) | Kinship Care is a program where children are placed with a relative to care for them until their permanency goal is achieved. |
| [**Foster Care Coordinator**](https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/map/fostercare) | The Foster Care Coordinator recruits new foster parents, licenses foster homes, and matches children who need placement with an appropriate place. The Foster Care Coordinator also manages complaints or concerns brought to the agency’s attention. |
| [**State Permanency Consultant**](https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/permanency) | State Permanency Consultants support counties to facilitate timely permanence for children. They may participate or facilitate family meetings with CPS Professionals to assist with discussions about permanency options. |
| **Parent Aide** | Parent Aides typically work with parents on issues or conditions that led to the removal of their children. They might be involved during family interaction. |
| **Mentor** | A mentor provides the child with opportunities to explore recreational or other positive social outlets. |
| [**Coordinated Services Team (CST)**](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cst/index.htm) | CTS initiatives develop a comprehensive, individualized system of care for children with complex behavioral health needs. The CST itself is a group that includes family members, service providers, and others that work to design and carry out a coordinated services plan for the child. This model of care is often referred to as wraparound. |
| [**Comprehensive Community Services (CCS)**](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ccs/index.htm) | Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) is a program that supports individuals of all ages by addressing their unique needs related to mental health and substance use. CCS is intended to assist individuals who need care outside of inpatient settings but who may have ongoing needs that, if left unaddressed, may require hospitalization during times of crisis. |
| [**Birth to 3**](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/index.htm) | The Birth to 3 Program is for children ages birth to three years old. Eligibility is based on a diagnosed disability or significant developmental delay in how a child plays learns, speaks, and acts. The program values the family’s primary relationship with their child and works in partnership with them. |
| **Judge** | The judge presides over the court and makes decisions regarding the child according to the facts of the case and the law. In some counties, for certain activities, a circuit court commissioner may take the place of the judge. |
| **Circuit Court Commissioner** | A circuit court commissioner is a court official appointed by the judge to preside over specific court processes and make decisions according to the case and law. |
| **Guardian ad Litem** | A child’s guardian ad litem (GAL) is an attorney appointed by the court to represent the best interest of a child under 12 years of age who is involved in a court proceeding. The guardian ad litem makes independent recommendations to the court and is required to be an advocate for the best interest of the child. |
| **Adversary Counsel** | An adversary counsel is an attorney appointed by the court or privately hired for a child 12 years of age or older to represent the child’s wishes related to the court proceedings. |
| **Corporation Counsel** | The corporation counsel is an attorney employed by the county who may represent the county in certain cases involving children. In some counties, the district attorney’s office may handle child abuse or neglect and termination of parental rights proceedings rather than the corporation counsel. |
| **District Attorney** | The district attorney is employed by the state but elected by county residents, representing the public interest in certain cases involving children, including delinquency cases. In some counties, the district attorney’s office may handle child abuse or neglect and termination of parental rights proceedings rather than the corporation counsel. |
| **Parents’ Attorney** | Parents may have an attorney appointed by the court or hired privately to represent their legal interests. |
| **Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)** | Court-appointed special advocates (CASA) are trained volunteer community members appointed by a judge to advocate, on a one-to-one basis, for a child in foster care. |
| **Psychiatrist** | A psychiatrist is a medical doctor specializing in addressing mental health concerns. |
| **Psychotherapist or Counselor** | Psychotherapists work with people to address emotional, behavioral, and other presenting mental health needs. |
| **Infant Mental Health Consultant** | Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants are professionals with mental health expertise who also have knowledge and experience working with young children (birth to five) and their families. |
| [**School Counselor**](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/sswedfostercare.pdf) | School Counselors help students succeed in school and plan their careers. |
| [**School Social Worker**](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/sswpgroles.pdf) | School social workers connect families to community organizations for the support they need. |
| **Early Care and Education/ Head Start Teacher** | Early Care and Education teachers specialize in the learning, developmental, social, and physical needs of young children (0-5). |

These terms were consolidated from sources on the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health Services, and Public Instruction.