**Common Acronyms**

**ABA –** Applied Behavior Analysis

ABA is a form of therapy used primarily for those on the autism spectrum. It focuses on helping the patient improve specific behaviors and adaptive learning skills. A few behaviors ABA therapy might focus on are communication, social skills, academics, and reading. The types of learning skills that ABA therapy focuses on include things like punctuality, grooming, dexterity, domestic capabilities, hygiene, and job competence.

**ASD –** Autism Spectrum Disorder

ASD is a [developmental disability](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/developmentaldisabilities/facts.html) that often impacts the way people behave, interact, communicate, and learn. For some, the cause of this disability is unknown other than the fact that there are differences in their brain. For others, there is a known genetic condition.

**BHT –** Behavioral Health Treatment

Examples of BHTs are things like specialized psychotherapies or counseling. They are merely defined as ways of helping people with substance use disorders or mental illnesses.

**CFS** **–** Children & Family Services

The Division of CFS provides several services, including economic assistance programs, child welfare, youth rehabilitation and treatment centers, and adult protective services. Their mission is to help families care for themselves by providing the least disruptive care as possible when needed and only for as long as necessary.

**CIE –** Competitive Integration Employment

CIE is a program that allows even those with the most significant disabilities to work part-time or full-time in the community, earning at least minimum wage, alongside other employees who do not have disabilities.

**CITP –** Community Integration Training Program

CITPs are programs that are focused on providing the support necessary to enable individuals to attain their maximum ability in the workforce.

**CMS –** Centers for Medicaid/Medicare Services

The CMS has a goal of strengthening and modernizing the healthcare system in the US and providing US citizens access to high quality healthcare at reduced costs. They have provided [free or reduced-rate health insurance](https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies/centers-for-medicare-and-medicaid-services)

through Medicaid, Medicare, the Health Insurance Marketplace, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program to over 100 million people.

**DDN –** Developmentally Disabled Nursing

DDNs are also knows as special needs nurses. They’re specially trained to care for, advocate for, and assist people of any age who have developmental disabilities or conditions resulting from one with movement skills, eating, learning language, and more. A few developmental disabilities include ASD, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome, and cerebral palsy.

**DDS –** Department of Developmental Services

The DDS is a government office that provides supports and services for adults with intellectual disabilities and parents of children with developmental disabilities. They offer services for families, residential supports, transportation services, and respite care.

**DGS -**  Department of General Services

Each state’s DGS provides a broad range of shared services to support the business operations of all the state’s perspective agencies. The DGS is also the control agency that approves DDS contracts.

**DOR –** Department of Rehabilitation

Though every state may not have a DOR, many states do. DORs are state agencies that help those with disabilities to overcome obstacles in their life, find new careers, live more independently, and face new challenges.

**EI –** Early Intervention

EI is the term for free or reduced cost supports and services [offered through each state and territory](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/parents/states.html) to babies and young children with disabilities and developmental delays and their families. Two of these services include physical therapy or speech therapy. EI can significantly increase a child’s ability to overcome challenges, learn new skills, and succeed in school and life.

**FHR –** Fair Hearing Request

An FHR is the request an individual puts in for fair hearing, which is a right according to the [Due Process of Law](https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/due+process+of+law). It means that the individual will be given the chance to present their evidence before the Administrative Law Judge to support their case for disability assistance. After the individual presents their case, the Administrative Judge will then issue a written decision stating judgement as to whether the local agency’s original decision was incorrect or was correct and stands. If the judge finds the local agency was wrong, the agency must correct your case according to the written order.

**HCBS –** Home- & Community-Based Services

There are several types of HBCS, a form of person-centered care that can be delivered in the individual’s home or in the community. They can be health services, human services, or both and are often designed to enable individuals who need help with everyday activities and those with functional limitations to keep living in their homes.

**HIPAA –** Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act

HIPAA is a federal legislation that was established by Congress in 1996 requiring that national standards be created to protect the patient’s sensitive health information from falling into the hands of unauthorized people. Additional objectives have been added to the original legislation over the years with the most recent, added in 2013, bringing the [final text](https://www.hipaajournal.com/hipaa-explained/) up to five Titles.

**I&A –** Intake and Assessment

An I&A is a checklist of considerations, otherwise known as a biopsychosocial assessment. It is a tool that is used at the initial meeting with a client by healthcare professionals to gather information about that client so the professional can, not only address the clint’s immediate needs, but also put together a working baseline for counseling and caring for client issues. An I&A can also encourage client engagement and help the counselor to establish and begin building the patient-client relationship.

**IBSS –** Intensive Behavioral/Social Skills Services

Intensive Behavioral Treatment (IBT) is an evidence-based therapy that combines ABA therapy, Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention, Discrete Trial Training, and Pivotal Response Training to address problematic behaviors in children under five years old on the autism spectrum.

Social skills therapy is vital for those with autism. It enables them to share, converse, work, and play with typical peers.

IBSS combines the two services.

**ID/DD –** Intellectual Disabilities / Developmental Disabilities

Intellectual and developmental disabilities are both disorders that negatively affect an individual’s intellectual, physical, or emotional development, typically presenting themselves at birth. Some individuals are negatively affected by more than one developmental disability, and many of the disabilities affect several systems and body parts, including cell function, metabolism, the nervous system, and even survival itself.

**IFSP –** Individual Family Service Plan

Every child with disabilities is entitled to an IFSP, which is like an Individualized Education Program (IEP). However, an IFSP is for children who are too young to receive an IEP. It’s focused on helping the parents of the developmentally disabled child get them into therapies that will help him succeed in school before they enter preschool or kindergarten. Services typically include things like occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy. There may also ne therapies that are specific to their particular disability.

**NOR –** Notice of Resolution

An NOR is the written judgement given at the end of a Fair Hearings.

**NPO –** Non-Profit Organization

            An NPO is a business that furthers scientific, religious, educational, charitable, cruelty-prevention, public safety, or literary causes or purposes, serves the public in some way, and has been granted a tax-exempt status by the IRS.

**OCRA –** Office of Clients Rights Advocacy

The OCRA is a part of the [Disability Rights of California](https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/). As such, they are funded through the California [Department of Developmental Services](https://www.dds.ca.gov/). They provide advice, free legal information, and representation. They help with everything from abuse, neglect, and criminal matters to school services and voting rights.

**PDD/NOS –** Pervasive Developmental Disorder/Not Otherwise Specified

PDD/NOS refers to a whole group of disorders that are characterized by developmental delays in communication skills and socialization. A few of developmental disorders that fall under this diagnostic category are autism, Rhett’s Syndrome, and Child Disintegrative Disorder.

**QIDP –** Qualified Intellectual Disability Professional

QIDPs, formally referred to as Qualified Mental Retardation Professionals (QMRP), work closely with intellectually or developmentally disabled clients who live in community homes.

**SIR –** Special Incident Report

An SIR is a formalized report that must be filed with the center anytime a client served by the center is involved in any abnormal event. These would include abuse, error, death, or injury. You also fill out an SIR if the client being served is a crime victim.

**SSDI –** Social Security Disability Insurance

SSDI is a United States federal income benefits program that’s payroll tax-funded. It pays monthly benefits to those workers who lose their job due to impairment or a significant illness that’s expected to last a year or more or expected to result in death within that year.

**SSI –** Supplemental Security Income

SSI is a United States federal program that uses taxes to supplement the income of aged, blind, and disabled people.