

## **CAREGIVER PROTECTIVE CAPACITY DEFINITIONS**

### **Caregiver Protective Capacity**

Protective capacities are personal qualities or characteristics that contribute to vigilant child protection.

#### **Criteria (characteristics) for Determining Caregiver Protective Capacities:**

- Prepares the person to be protective
- Enables or empowers the person to be protective
- Necessary or fundamental to being protective
- Must exist prior to being protective
- Can be related to acting or being able to act on behalf of a child

### **Behavioral Protective Capacity**

- Demonstrates impulse control
- Takes action
- Sets aside her/his needs in favor of a child
- Demonstrates adequate skill to fulfill caregiving responsibilities
- Is adaptive as a caregiver
- Has a history of protecting

### **Cognitive Protective Capacity**

- Is intellectually able/capable
- Recognizes and understands threats to the child
- Recognizes the child's needs
- Understands his/her protective role
- Plans and is able to articulate a plan to protect children
- Is self-aware

### **Emotional Protective Capacity**

- Is able to meet their own emotional needs
- Is resilient as a caregiver
- Is tolerant as a caregiver
- Expresses love, empathy and sensitivity toward the child; experiences specific empathy with regard to the child's perspective and feelings
- Is stable and able to intervene to protect children
- Is positively attached to the child
- Is supportive and aligned with the child