

Historical Timeline

“Throughout history society has struggled to define the relationship between a parent and a child”

2150 BC – Hammurabic Code (Babylon)

- Child’s duty was to respect parents

753 BC – Roman Law

- Unilateral & almost unlimited rights of the father

1100AD – Early English Law

- Permitted infanticide & the sale of children

1646 - Stubborn Child Act (Massachusetts)

- A stubborn or rebellious child could be put to death

1875 – NY Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

1950s – Mass & Engler Study (1959)

- Foster family homes began to replace orphanages

1978 - Indian Child Welfare Act

1994 – MEPA (Multi-Ethnic Placement Act)

- Prohibited use of race, color or national origin as sole factors in placement decisions

1997 – Adoption & Safe Families Act

- Responsibility to provide timely, permanent family for children in care

2008 – Fostering Connections to Success Act

- Increased health, education and permanence opportunities

800 BC – Hebrew Code

- Parent-child relationship did not end until the father died

711-476 AD – Visigoth Kingdom

- Parents given authority to use reasonable physical discipline

1500-1600 AD – African & Native American Families

- Community cared for children in need

1912 – U.S. Children’s Bureau established

- Establishment of public & private child welfare agencies

1970 – Permanency planning movement in U.S.

1980 – P.L. 96-272

- Adoption Assistance & Child Welfare Act

1996 – Interethnic Adoption Provisions amended MEPA

- Clarified the original MEPA and strengthened compliance and enforcement

1999 – Chaffee Foster Care Independency Act

- Funding and services to children in care up to age 21

