

Module 6 – Alternative Care for Children

Session 1: Introduction to Alternative Care

Duration: 1:32 Minutes

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At the end of the session you will be able to understand:

- Alternative care for children
- Non-institutional alternative care under JJ Act
- United Nations Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children

Alternative care is the care provided for children by caregivers who are not their biological parents. This care may take the form of informal or formal care. Alternative care may be kinship care, foster care, other forms of family-based or family-like care placements, residential care, or supervised independent living arrangements for children and young adults.

According to the United Nations 2010 Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children alternative care is “where the child’s own family is unable, even with appropriate support, to provide adequate care for the child, or abandons or relinquishes the child, the State is responsible for protecting the rights of the child and ensuring appropriate alternative care, with or through competent local authorities and duly authorized civil society organizations. It is the role of the State, through its competent authorities, to ensure the supervision of the safety, well-being and development of any child placed in alternative care and the regular review of the appropriateness of the care arrangement provided.