Below are characteristics of a CSA Parental Agreement:

* The purpose of the agreement is to provide mental health treatment for a child with emotional/behavioral disorders when all other avenues or resources have been exhausted;
* A signed formal agreement outlining expectations and regulations;
* Only out-of-home treatment placements are clinically recommended for youth’s level of need (residential, group home or Treatment Foster Care (TFC);
* The child is under the age of 18 at the time of placement;
* The intention of the agreement is voluntary and court involvement is not required;
* Either party may terminate the agreement with notice as stated in the agreement;
* It is not used in cases if the family has a history or current investigation of abuse or neglect;
* All CSA requirements such as screening for Medicaid eligibility, FAPT review, and administration of the uniform assessment instrument and utilization management/utilization review must be met;
* The parent retains legal custody;
* The parent is required to be involved in planning and treatment; and
* The plan is to return the child home as soon as appropriate.

Although the agreement is between an agency designated by the CPMT and the parent(s), the CPMT must also approve and sign the agreement as CSA is the funding source. A local public agency may not enter into a CSA Parental Agreement without the approval of the local CPMT. The following Arlington County CPMT members, or their designee, sign the parental agreement on behalf of the CPMT for youth case managed by their departments:

* Community Services Board (CSB) Representative
* Director of Juvenile Court Services for court placements
* Arlington Public Schools

Funding authorization approval cannot be communicated to a vendor until the Arlington County CSA office receives the completed parental agreement signed by both parties. Additional information on parental agreements can be found on the OCS website in the section titled” Frequently Asked Questions: CSA Parental Agreement.”

If the placement is the result of a court order, the agreement document will specify that the placement is not a result of parental voluntary placement. The Case Manager is required to complete the FAPT process when a service or placement is court-ordered. Parental agreements are specific to each placement. When youth have multiple placements, a new parental agreement must be signed each time. A child’s TOTAL length of stay in all out-of-home placements added together cannot exceed 365 days, unless otherwise approved by a quorum of the CPMT. ~~Parental agreements are not required for placements funded by non-mandated monies.~~

Extension of Parental Agreements

The CPMT may extend the CSA Parental Agreement up to 6-months at a time, not to exceed