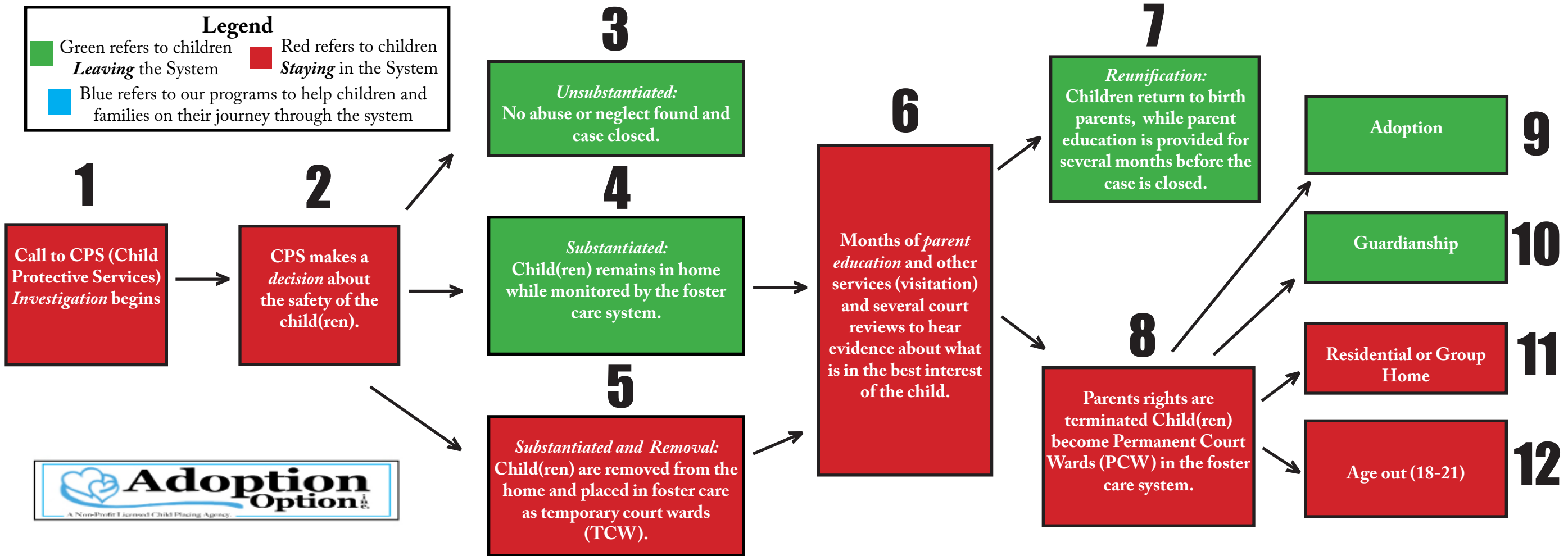


A Child's Journey through Foster Care

Once a call is placed to the *Child Protective Services (CPS) Department*, an *investigation* occurs. After the facts are reviewed, a *decision* is made as to whether the child can safely remain in the home. If there are no safety concerns, the file is closed and the investigation is labeled *unsubstantiated*. If there are safety concerns, but the risk of the harm to a child is not significant, the decision may be made to provide services to the family while the child remains in the home. If the risk of harm to the child is significant, the risk is *substantiated* and a court may order the removal of that child from the home. The child may be placed with a relative or in a foster home. A foster home license is typically required in order to be able to care for these children for an extended period of time. Months of *parent education* and other services are provided in an effort to determine whether it is in the best interest of the child(ren) to be returned to their parents. If so family *reunification* occurs. If not the court has several options such as adoption, guardianship, a residential/group home or aging out.



6) PLAN, PACT, PULSE, PAL, SFSC, FTBS

8 & 9) MHEF 9) Adoption

4-10) Foster Care & Licensed Homes

12) Foster Care & YIT