

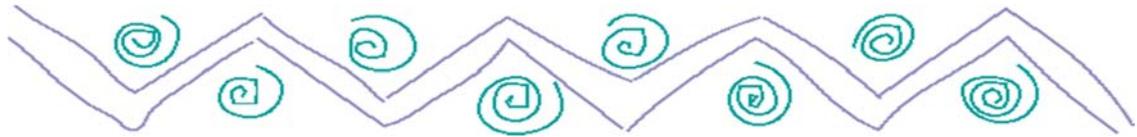
## What is “permanency”?

You might hear the word “permanency” from your caseworker, your transition worker, your GAL or CASA, or during your family team meeting.

Young people have written this definition to help other young people and adults to understand.

**Permanency** is a safe, committed, loving relationship that is intended to last forever between a young person and adult\* where the young person receives consistent emotional support, nurturing and acceptance based on trust and respect, providing for the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of the young person, offering legal rights and social status of full family membership, while assuring lifelong connections with the young person’s extended family, siblings and other significant relationships in the young person’s life.

(\*This can include birth family, extended kin, friends, foster and adoptive parents and/or other caring adults identified by the youth)



Here are a few very important points that are involved in your family permanency.

- You have the right to a permanent family relationship.
- You are the best source of information about your own strengths and needs.
- You have a voice in how the child welfare system works with families, the agency, and multiple systems in the effort to identify and support permanent relationships, make decisions and plan for your future.

Family permanence includes:

- A stable, healthy and lasting living situation within the context of a family relationship with at least one committed adult.
- Reliable, continuous and healthy connections with siblings, birth parents, extended family and a network of other significant adults.
- Education and/or employment, life skills, supports and services.

Permanency honors the cultural, racial, ethnic, linguistic, and religious/spiritual backgrounds of youth and their families and respects differences in sexual orientation and gender identity.

**Remember...** Permanency is not just a process, a plan, a foster care placement or a family relationship that lasts only until you turn age 18, but should be about finding and supporting **life-long family connections**.

...Answers for youth in care, by youth in care