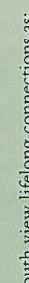


Youth view lifelong connections as:

- Lifelong relationship
- Friendship
- Ongoing support
- Extended family-like relationship

- Sharing life's ups and downs
- Someone to call on in times of crisis
- Someone to call "just because"
- Being there
- Defining family together
- Celebrating special times together
- Someone to check-in with regularly
- Assistance around major decisions
- Growing and changing together
- Being accepted no matter what

- Knowing that one is not alone



- Unconditional love
- Knowing that someone cares
- Continuity
- Someone to go home to

- Sharing holidays
- - Shared history
- - - Someone to trust
- Having someone to stand by you
- Knowing someone is proud of your accomplishments



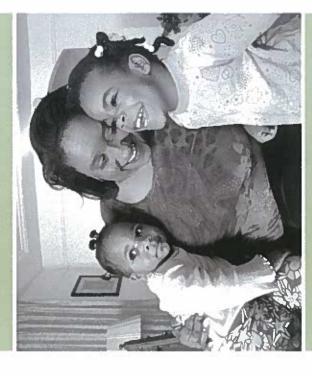
City and County of San Francisco Human Services Agency Family and Children's Services Division San Francisco, CA 94120-7988 P. O. Box 7988 (415) 557-5000

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City and County of San Francisco Human Services Agency

Permanency? What Is



has the right to have lifelong connection. a permanent Every child

option for young children. Permanency was traditionally only considered as an

San Francisco County is challenging this myth.

When family reunification is not possible, permanency options must be explored for all children regardless of disabilities, ethnicity, sibling group size, age or special needs.

DEFINITION OF PERMANENCY

As defined by the CPYP Task Force, www.cpyp.org

- At least one adult.
- A safe, stable and secure parenting relationship.
- Love
- Unconditional commitment.
- Lifelong support.
- Involvement of the youth as a participant and leader in the process.
- The most permanent, legal arrangement possible.
- The opportunity to maintain contacts with important persons including siblings.

VISION OF PERMANENCY

The City and County of San Francisco's comnitment is to achieve permanency for children and youth in foster care. We believe that all children and youth should have a lifelong connection to a caring adult.

GOALS FOR ACHIEVING PERMANENCY

- Increase permanency awareness among staff, foster families, relative caregivers, and community-based partners.
- Enhance and strengthen discussions with youth regarding their permanency planning process.
- Recruit permanent families and lifelong connections for foster youth age 11 and older.
- Reduce the number of children in grouphome care.
- Integrate youth permanence into all Agency policies and practices.

PERMANENCY OPTIONS

When reunification is not possible, it is necessary to explore other options for permanency.

Adoption

Provides legal permanency and an irreversible relationship with the adoptive family. All children and youth are considered "adoptable," and adoption should be examined on a case-by-case basis.

Legal Guardianship

Provides legal permanency for children and youth without severing their parent's rights or relationship.

KinGap Guardianship

Provides legal permanency for children and youth specifically placed with their relatives.

Lifelong Connections to a Caring Adult Provides children and youth with permanent, supportive relationships.