



Youth view lifelong connections as:

- Lifelong relationship
- Family
- Friendship
- Unconditional love
- Ongoing support
- Extended family-like relationship
- Knowing that someone cares
- Continuity
- Someone to go home to
- Sharing life's ups and downs
- Someone to call on in times of crisis
- Someone to call "just because"
- Being there
- Defining family together
- Sharing holidays
- Celebrating special times together
- Someone to check-in with regularly
- Shared history
- Assistance around major decisions
- Growing and changing together
- Being accepted no matter what
- Someone to trust
- Having someone to stand by you
- Knowing someone is proud of your accomplishments
- Knowing that one is not alone

City and County of San Francisco
Human Services Agency

What Is Permanency?



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



City and County of San Francisco
Human Services Agency

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

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.

VISION OF PERMANENCY

The City and County of San Francisco's commitment 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.

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.

DEFINITION OF PERMANENCY

As defined by the CPYP Task Force: www.cpyyp.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.

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 group-home care.
- Integrate youth permanence into all Agency policies and practices.