

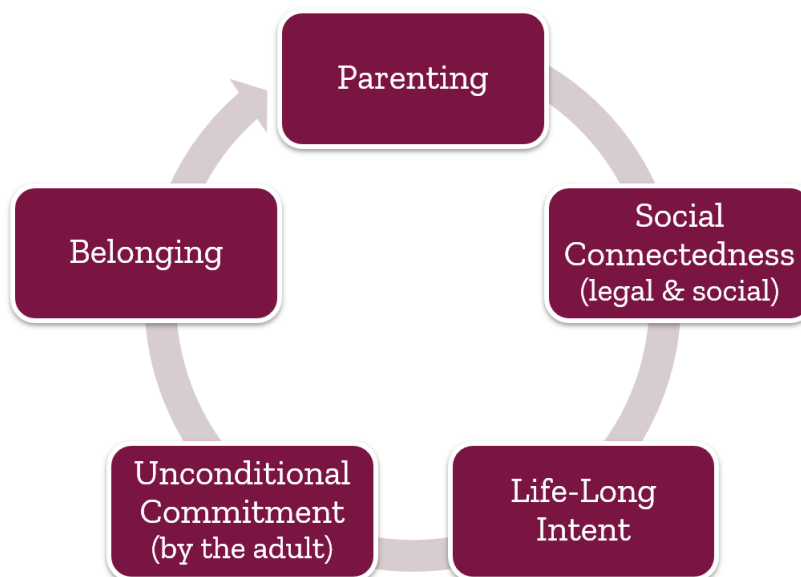
Introduction to Permanency Action Plans

What is Permanency?

Permanency, at its core, is about providing young people with a lifelong sense of family and belonging through stable, caring relationships with supportive adults and kin. This includes both relational permanency and legal permanency.

For a young person, **relational permanency** includes key elements like a sense of belonging, social connection, parenting, unconditional commitment, and lifelong commitment from the caring adult. Every youth, regardless of their age, deserves the stability and support of a close family or support system that lifts them up and offers a safety net through life's ups and downs.

Relational Permanency



Legal permanency refers to creating a legally recognized, stable family relationship for a young person. Legal permanency is important because it gives young people not just emotional security, but also concrete rights and protections—such as inheritance, health coverage, and decision-making authority in emergencies. It turns a caring adult relationship into one that is both emotionally and legally binding, offering long-term stability and security.

Introduction to Permanency Action Plans



What is a Youth-Centered Permanency Action Plan?

A Youth-Centered Permanency Action Plan is a clear, step-by-step set of strategies and action items designed to help a young person build strong, lasting relationships and move toward legal permanency. Developed through a roundtable process, the plan is fully youth-led—the young person decides who is at the table, sets the direction, and ensures the plan reflects their voice, goals, and priorities. While their support system and professionals collaborate in creating and carrying out the plan, their role is to support—not steer—the process, which is grounded in the youth’s leadership.

What is the Difference Between a Youth-Centered Permanency Roundtable and a Semiannual Administrative Review?

A Youth-Centered Permanency Roundtable (YCPRT) differs from a typical Semiannual Administrative Review (SAR) in child welfare in these key ways:

Youth Role	In Roundtables, the youth actively drives discussions and decisions about their permanency goals, while in administrative reviews, youth involvement is minimal or passive.
Focus	Roundtables prioritize long-term, individualized permanency planning driven by the youth's voice, values, and goals. Administrative reviews focus on compliance, case progress, and legal requirements.
Format	Roundtables are collaborative, problem-solving meetings involving a multidisciplinary team. Reviews are formal, structured, and often led by agency staff or reviewers.
Outcomes	Roundtables aim to generate creative, actionable strategies to achieve lasting permanency. Reviews assess existing services and placement stability within standard procedural guidelines.