

Definition of Permanency

Permanency for youth is defined as having a relationship with at least one adult that is characterized by these five points¹:

1. **Parenting**
2. **Life-Long Intent**
3. **Belonging**
4. **Status** (*legal and social*)
5. **Unconditional Commitment** (*by the adult*)

It is important to note that **achieving Permanency isn't about securing a safe placement for the youth**. While the process may begin by finding an appropriate, stable living situation, it must continue until the young person is solidly connected to a caring, lasting, family-oriented relationship with an adult as described above.

Although there are different forms of Permanency, during the Roundtable consultations, the “**gold standard**” is achieving legal Permanency for youth in one of the following ways:

- ✓ **Reunification**
- ✓ **Adoption**
- ✓ **Legal Guardianship**

¹ Adapted from: Sue Hoag Badeau; Robert Lewis and Maureen Heffernan; and California Permanency for Youth Project