

Silberman School of Social Work



## Child Welfare Practice II

# Welcome Back!

# Silberman School of Social Work



## Session 1: Permanency

**Please Read:**

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/permanency/overview/history/>

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/afcars-report-30.pdf>

<https://www.casey.org/effective-strategies-achieving-permanency/>

## Historical Permanency

The history of child welfare in the United States can be characterized by a continuous thematic shift between family preservation and child safety.

Kids came into out-of-home care and stayed until they were 18 years old

1959 Maas and Engler spoke and wrote about 'Foster Care Drift'

## Historical Permanency

The 1970s saw a number of efforts to reduce children's time in foster care and expedite paths to permanency.

The 1997 Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) (P.L. 105–89) marked the first time issues related to permanency were explicitly stated in legislation, which was pivotal in changing the landscape of child welfare practice.

## Historical Permanency

In 2008, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (P.L. 110–351) amended the Social Security Act to improve outcomes for children in foster care, connect and support relative caregivers, and offer incentives for adoption.

Fostering Connections enhanced services for youth aging out of care and created new programs to help children and youth in or at risk of entering foster care to reconnect with family members.

The act also provided the opportunity for federally recognized Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortia—for the first time in history—to directly operate title IV-E programs.

## Defining Permanency

Permanence is not a philosophical process, a plan, or a foster care process, a plan, or a foster care placement, nor is it intended to be a placement, nor is it intended to be a family relationship that lasts only until the youth turns age 18

## Defining Permanency

Permanence is about locating and supporting a lifetime family.

For young people in out-of-home placement, planning for permanence should begin at entry into care, and be youth-driven,, family-focused, culturally competent, continuous, approached with the highest degree of urgency.



## Defining Permanency

Permanence should bring physical, legal and emotional safety and security within and emotional safety and security within the context of a family relationship and allow multiple relationships with a variety of caring adults.

## Defining Permanency

Permanence is achieved with a family relationship that offers safe, stable, and committed parenting, unconditional love, and lifelong support, and legal membership status.

**Permanence can be the result of:**

Preservation of the family;

Reunification with birth family;

Legal guardianship with kin/fictive kin;

Adoption

APPLA

## In Home Services

[https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/inhome\\_services.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/inhome_services.pdf)

Sustained at home with family with support and referrals

Intensive Family Preservation Services

Intensive Home Based Services

## Out of Home Services

**Children should be placed in the least restrictive settings**

Placed with relatives in their home

Placed with licensed foster parents in their home

Agency Operated Boarding Homes – AOBH

Group Homes

Congregate Care Facilities

Residential Treatment Centers

Residential Treatment Facilities – OMH

Psychiatric Hospitalization

## Vignette # 1

Pedro is a six year old child, with downs syndrome. He was adopted by a family at birth, but recently the family has decided that they can no longer care for Pedro and asked to have him placed.

How do you talk to this family?

What type of placement do you think would best suit Pedro's needs?

What is the Permanency Pathway for Pedro as you see it now?

## Vignette # 2

Marcie, is a trans youth aged 17 years. She has been in 12 different foster homes, and none of them really meet her needs. She has now been on the streets for three months and has come into the office saying she had enough of the streets and needs a permanent place to live

What type of placement do you think would best suits Marcie's 's needs?

What is the Permanency Pathway for Marcie as you see it now?

## Vignette # 3

Gennie, is a lesbian youth aged 15 years. She has been in the same foster home with Mrs. Sanchez a very experienced foster parent, for the past two years. Most recently, Gennie came out to Mrs. Sanchez who is deeply religious and who immediately had a very negative reaction to her disclosure. Mrs. Sanchez says she cannot have a lesbian in her home as it is against God's will.

How do you talk to Mrs. Sanchez?

What type of placement do you think would best suits Gennie 's needs?

What is the Permanency Pathway for Gennie as you see it now?



## Vignette # 4

Bob is a 13 year old heterosexual boy who is very into sports at his local school. He has lived with his foster parents – Mr. & Mrs. Pascal, who are very caring, but have refused to adopt him as their older children object to their legalizing the relationship. The foster parents tell you there is nothing that would make them ask to have Bob replaced. But when Mr. Pascal suddenly died from a stroke – and Mrs. Pascal decides to move to Florida with her daughter, she asked for Bob to be replaced.

How do you talk to Mrs. Pascal and her family?

What type of placement do you think would best suit Bob 's needs?

What is the Permanency Pathway for Bob as you see it now?

Next Session:

All About Foster Homes

Read:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/fostercare/>

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/child-welfare/become-foster-adoptive-parent.page>