

Permanency Resource Monitors

Permanency Resource Monitors are local experts who help when there are barriers to permanency – including youth with a goal of adoption without an identified adoptive family, reunification for nine months or longer, Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement or who are in or being considered for residential treatment. Monitors are available for consultation on any case.

Monitors work closely with caseworkers to determine appropriate permanency outcomes and develop strategies to overcome barriers, including:

Locating family connections including paid internet searches.

Identifying and connecting youth with supportive adults.

Connecting youth with resources.

Explaining permanency options, attending Family Team Meetings and providing training.

Resources for Older Youth with a Foster Care Experience

There are many resources available to assist youth while in foster care and during their transition to adulthood. Services include Youth in Transition, Education and Training Voucher and Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative.

These services may also be available to youth who were reunified, adopted or had a legal guardian appointed as long as they were in foster care on or after their 14th birthday* and meet other eligibility requirements, even after the foster care case closes.

All youth in foster care at age 14 and older will receive services to assist with developing independent living skills regardless of their permanency goal.

*If a youth is adopted or has a guardian appointed, this must occur on or after their 16th birthday to be eligible for ETV.

For more information, visit:
www.michigan.gov/fyit
www.michigan.gov/mdhhs

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Permanency and Resources for Older Youth Who Have Experienced Foster Care



Permanency for Older Youth in Foster Care

Older youth in foster care need a safe, stable home in which to live and grow, including a life-long relationship with a nurturing caregiver. Permanency planning involves the caseworker's efforts to move youth from a temporary foster care placement to a stable and permanent home.

Efforts must be made to find families for older youth and identify placement options that provide age-appropriate opportunities and responsibilities. Appropriate placement options allow youth to practice the skills they need for adulthood in more independent and flexible settings. Youth, ages 14-21, must be involved in placement decisions, and are a valuable resource in identifying individuals who might be available to serve as placements.

The youth's permanency plan must be based on his/her own best interests and individual needs and determined on a case-by-case basis. A youth's age, placement, or disability alone should never be a disqualifier for a more preferred permanency goal, such as adoption or guardianship.

Five Federal Permanency Goals (In Order of Legal Preference)

Reunification: The process of reuniting the child with his/her parents is widely recognized as the initial objective of foster care. Sometimes, for reasons of safety or other considerations, reunification is not possible.

Adoption: If termination of parental rights occurs, and it is in the child's best interest, adoption is the preferred goal. Adoption provides permanency for the child and transfers all parental rights and responsibilities to the adoptive parent(s). Adoption assistance may be available.

Guardianship: If a determination has been made that adoption is not in the best interest of the child and reunification is not possible, legal guardianship is the next preferred goal. Guardianship assistance payments may be available if the guardian(s) are licensed for foster care and assistance is approved by the MDHHS Adoption and Guardianship Assistance Office. With this program, guardianship is intended to be permanent (lasting until the youth reaches the age of majority) and not intended for very young children.

Adoption and guardianship can occur up until the age of eighteen. They provide a sense of security and family attachment and allow for a legal permanence between the youth and the family.

If a youth is adopted or has a guardian appointed on or after the age of 16 and assistance is in place, the assistance may be able to continue until the age of 21 if eligibility requirements are met.

Permanent Placement with Fit and Willing Relative: For youth who cannot be reunified, adopted or have a guardian appointed, efforts must be made to secure permanent placement with a relative with whom there is a strong attachment and sense of belonging. The goal is to provide youth with a permanent home with their relative(s) who are unable or unwilling to pursue adoption or guardianship. All parties agree in writing that the placement is intended to last until the youth reaches adulthood. The foster care case will remain open.

Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA): If the youth is 16 or older and all other permanency goals have been ruled out, the goal of APPLA may be established. In this situation, the youth may live with an unrelated licensed foster parent, in independent or supported independent living or in a residential setting. APPLA requires the youth have one or more supportive adults identified and approved who will assist and be responsive to the youth's needs. The foster care case remains open until the youth reaches adulthood.

The youth must be assessed and display a certain degree of responsibility and readiness for independent or supported independent living.