

Kern County
California Permanency For Youth Project
Permanency Specialist Position

Definition:

The Permanency Specialist is a SSW III working in the Child Protective Services Bureau through the Department of Human Services. The primary role of the Permanency Specialist is to enhance long-term permanency outcomes for our foster youth. This role also entails engagement of family members, friends and other supportive adults so our foster youth will have "life long" permanent connections. The Permanency Specialist will coordinate Discovery, Engagement, Planning, Decision making, Education and Follow Up Support phases of California Permanency for Youth Project program description.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

This is the advanced journey level in the classification of Social Service Worker III, IV or V. These classifications are distinguished from Social Service Worker I and II'S by a high degree of perception and creativity, or to a geographic or functional area where supervision may not be immediately available. Social Service Worker III's, IV'S and V'S are expected to assist in training co-workers, immediate supervision of interns and oversee special projects. The Permanency Specialist oversees a specialized caseload that seeks to enhance permanency outcomes for our foster youth. This position works closely with other social workers, relatives, caretakers, community partners and other professionals. This position requires strong perception and communication, engagement, and team building skills. The job duties for this position are as follows:

Essential Functions:

- Caseload management of youth assigned to the project. Coordinate Discovery, Engagement, Planning, Decision Making and Follow Up Support.
- Identify and engage staff involved in the youth's case.
- Interview youth referred to the project.
- Consult and educate the youth's caretaker about the permanency journey.
- Consult with assigned Mental Health Therapist to prepare the youth for their permanency journey.
- Advise legal representative for youth; i.e. attorney/CASA.

- Search of Relatives – 60 Day Deadline, and identify the youth’s extended family relationships.
- Coordinate “Permanency Team” to discuss results of searches and who will play what role in youth’s permanency journey.
- Contact relatives/friends located through searches. Send letters if phone number information is unavailable.
- Have visits/meetings with youth and family as contacts are made. Those a part of the “permanency team” for the youth will be notified and invited to attend visits with youth and their located family.
- Ensure phone contact, letters and visits are initiated and on-going between the family and the youth. Follow-up with family members and youth as to how this is going.
- When appropriate, refer the family to a Life-Long connection conference (LLCC). The LLCC will involve the SSW, Perm. Spec., Therapist, Youth and other staff. The purpose of the LLCC is to form a plan to meet the youth’s permanency needs.
- Contact identified connections to attend the LLCC.
- Dialogue with Youth about his/her needs in relation to possible connections made.
- Timely decisions will be made by the permanency support team in the areas of visits, placement and service referrals.
- Data Collection and Outcome Measures, as completed through Permanency List and other measures.
- Consult with Department staff on Permanency issues/cases.
- Provide staff training as needed for Family Finding, Engagement and Youth Permanency.
- Coordinate permanency goals with the Older Youth Adoption project and Heart Gallery in those cases in common.
- Other duties as assigned including participation in various KCDHS and community partner committees/meetings.