

What does my caseworker mean when they say, “You need permanency”?

For youth in care, permanency means having a forever family whether it is your birth parents, adoptive resource, or a committed and caring adult. Permanency means that these people and connections will be there for you as a resource and a support as you transition into adulthood. Children and young adults in foster care are required to receive services that help them return home to family or to find a permanent family. Talk to your caseworker, lawyer or judge about your plan for permanency.

How do SWAN services help? SWAN services help in a number of ways:

- They can help a youth answer the questions they might have about their history.
- They can help a youth understand why they are in foster care or the substitute care system.
- They can help youth reconnect safely with their birth family, or help a youth find permanency through adoption or permanent connections with people who care about them.
- They are designed to focus on the youth and give the youth a voice. Since these services are youth directed, there might be a few activities that are worked on, but the child or young adult can choose which ones.



pennsylvania
STATEWIDE ADOPTION AND
PERMANENCY NETWORK

1-800-585-SWAN

<http://www.adoptpakids.org/>



YAB
PA
YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

<http://payab.pitt.edu>



pennsylvania
STATEWIDE ADOPTION AND
PERMANENCY NETWORK

What is SWAN or the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network?

The Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network’s job is to support agencies who work to prepare children and young adults for permanency.





Who can get SWAN services?

If you are a child or young adult under the age of 21 in the custody of children and youth and in out of home care, you can receive SWAN services. If you are wondering if you fit these requirements, ask someone you are comfortable with- maybe your caregiver, caseworker, lawyer, or your Judge.

How are SWAN services requested?

You can request SWAN services by talking to your caseworker, your IL worker, your lawyer or Guardian ad Litem or by asking the judge during your case review hearings.

What are some of the SWAN services available?

Although there are seven SWAN services offered, three of these are critical services that you should consider.

These services are:

- **Child Profile**
- **Child Preparation**
- **Child Specific Recruitment or CSR**

Child Profile - If you agree with any of the below statements, you should have a Child Profile completed for you.

- I would like to have a document that has all my history written in it.
- I would like to know the names of my past foster parents.
- I can't remember all the placements I have been in or where I have lived.
- I want to know all the schools that I have attended.
- I want to know more about my medical history and the medical history of my birth family.
- I would like a list of all the medications I have been on and services I received.
- I would like to know more about where I came from and how I ended up in placement.

Child Preparation- If you identify with or feel you need support with any of the below statements, Child Prep could help you.

- I need help on figuring out who I am.
- I want to know what happened to me and how I got here.
- I need help figuring out where I am going with my life.
- I need some help figuring out how I am going to get there.
- I need to know when I belong.
- I would like some help building positive relationships with people in my life.
- I need someone to listen and hear my voice.

Child Specific Recruitment or CSR- If you agree with any of the below statements, CSR might be right for you.

- I need a support system or would like to strengthen the support system I have.
- I want a family to call my own.
- I want to reconnect with my past connections, like former foster parents, teachers etc.
- I really need to know what my support system can do for me.
- I need someone to believe in me and encourage me.
- I need a permanent connection, a person to support me and help me.
- I want to have a voice in planning for my future.
- I need a recruiter to work with me and for me on what I want and if it will work for me.

Now- Go get 'em!