

## *Permanent Custody Teen Specialist Roles*



1. **Advocate:** Advocates for teens in care. Teen Specialist advocate for... change... for allocation of resources afforded to teens in care... for educational needs and how to best support them so they can achieve success in the classroom... for their mental health and physical needs...and lastly, for placement preservation and/or placement change that is suitable for the youth given their unique challenges and one that is likely to enhance their state of well being and optimize success.
2. **Independent Living Specialist:** Ensures, in the context of each youth's permanency needs, that each youth receives a thorough Independent Living Skills Assessment. From this, a specific Independent Living Plan will be developed. Plans will address the five Federal Chafee goals as outlined in the Federal Chafee Act of 1999. Teen Specialist will ensure that the youth, who are in Permanent Custody, have a life-long and permanent connection to caring adults and community supports. Potential permanent connections include, but are not limited to...biological family members (immediate and extended), coach, teacher, mentor, family friend. We are also committed to linking every teen with appropriate neighborhood collaborative partners and other community supports.

3. **Facilitator:** Facilitates meetings to ensure needs of the youth are met and rights respected. This includes, but is not limited to... all agency meetings such as Semi-Annual Reviews (SAR) and Team Decision Making Staffings (TDM); court proceedings, Teen Support Meetings (TSM) and educational forums.
4. **Mentor / Consultant:** Provides resource and guidance to staff and agencies working with permanent custody teens to ensure that these teens are receiving quality service provision through informed decisions in relation to the youth's mastery of skills necessary to achieve successful independence.
5. **Adoption Worker:** Helps determine the appropriateness of the potential adoptive homes and assist in completing the adoption process.
6. **Case Manager:** Manages the individual cases for permanent custody teens, including, supervision of living arrangements, case plans and independent living plans.
7. **Post Custody Worker:** Serves post custody youth who return for assistance through information and referral services, advocacy efforts, counsel and emergency assistance.

*We are committed to finding the key that will unlock each youth's individual motivation to achieve optimal success based on their unique challenges and degree of support .*