

Resource families are critical to helping youth gain both necessary independent living skills as well as necessary relationships that can support young people into adulthood. Utilizing a permanency pact is a great tool to frame a discussion between a young person and their identified support system. This pact formalizes the commitment of an adult in a youth's world and how they can show up to be a support for them.

Taking a step toward trusting a relationship is often a very great accomplishment for a youth with a background where relationships are broken, promises are often not kept, and disappointment in caretakers prevails. The gift that a Supportive Adult contributes by way of a life-long commitment to the relationship is heroic. The impact of the forged relationship may be profound to all parties.

How can you help? As one of the most important people in a young person's life, you can offer to help facilitate a conversation between your young person and the adults they identify as supportive connections. Offering to review and sign the permanency pact can help solidify the commitment those supportive adults are making to that young person.