

SOUL Family Legal Permanency (HB 2536) Example of Scenarios



SCENARIO #1

SOUL FAMILY LEGAL PERMANENCY, with concurrent case plan goal of Permanent Custodianship, is viable option in this case: A female youth is 16 years old and has been in foster care for 1.5 years. Both parents' parental rights remain in place, but they both continue to struggle with substance abuse issues. Youth has an aunt and neighbor with whom the child has close emotional ties. Both are willing to serve as SOUL Family Legal Permanency custodians. The child may reside with the aunt who lives 3 blocks from current placement in the same school district where the youth attends high school. The neighbor lives approximately 2 miles away and resides across the street from the parents. She has 2 adult children who no longer reside at home. She has known the youth since youth was in 3rd grade and helped out with the youth and an older sibling when parents were struggling, but parents still had custody of the kids. A teacher has agreed to serve as an "other individual" who will provide needed support to the youth to be successful in school and move forward to graduation. The youth wants to train to become certified as a paralegal. The local community college has an excellent program and the maternal grandparents have a savings account for the benefit of the youth that they have pledged can be used for the tuition in obtaining the desired certification. The youth approves of this plan.

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SCENARIO #2

SOUL FAMILY LEGAL PERMANENCY, with concurrent case plan goal of Permanent Custodianship, is being considered in a CINC action of an older youth.

The youth came into care when approximately 12 years of age as the bio family was unable to provide the needed medical care for the child. The youth is now 16 years of age and all input from the youth's medical providers is that he will continue to have needs which will require continuance of the most expansive medical care feasible. The foster parents are willing to provide continued care, but do not have many financial resources and the continuance of the youth's medical card until age 26 years is very important. SOUL Family statutorily requires an analysis of benefits and determination by the court, based upon information provided, to ensure youth's access to maximum allowable benefits as compared with other permanency options. This may be a case where a network of caring persons is of value and can still be put in place informally, but SOUL Family as the court ordered permanency option may not be the best permanency for the youth.

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SCENARIO #3

SOUL FAMILY LEGAL PERMANENCY, with concurrent case plan goal of Permanent Custodianship, is being considered in a CINC action of an older youth.

The youth is 17 years of age and came into foster care for the first time at age 15.5 years. The mother has had mental health issues since the youth was born. She was still married to the father until he was killed in a car accident two years ago. The father worked full time to support the family financially and was the most stable of the two parents. Due to Mom's mental health issues, father decided not to have more children with his wife/youth's mother. The youth has 2 older half siblings, ages 25 and 20 years of age. When the father died, no other relatives were able and/or willing to become full time custodian for the youth who was at the time acting out and due to the loss of her father. The youth is highly intelligent and is intent upon completing college. Even though scholarship offers are feasible, the Kansas tuition waiver statute could be of great assistance to the youth. Said statute does not as yet specifically include youth with SOUL Family permanency.

The youth has relationship with the half siblings who are willing to provide emotional support, but they and their father have very limited financial resources. SOUL Family (due to college expense issue) may possibly not be best option in this specific case.