

“What will I get out of participating in Permanency Court?”

- You will have your own attorney!
Your attorney will advocate for what YOU want versus your GAL or CASA who advocates in your best interest. Example: Your GAL or CASA wants you to move in with your aunt and go to college because that is what he thinks is best for you, but you want to live with your cousin and enter the police academy.... Your attorney can help you argue for that!
- You will see the Judge every 2 months!
You're asking yourself if that's a good thing...YES, it is! Because you will get what you need much quicker than if you were not participating in Permanency Court. Example, you haven't seen your relatives in months and want to see them ASAP. You and your attorney will be able to express your interests to the court, and the Judge will order your team to do something about it! And in 2 months (instead of 6 months), your team will have to report back to the Judge on their progress!
- Attending your hearings will be virtually pain-free!
You're thinking...UGH...I don't even want to come to court! But your hearings will be at a set time, the same time, every 2 months. You can literally be in and out of court in less than 30 minutes. Hearings will be informal with food, so that you can get to know everyone on your team; and transportation to hearings will be arranged!
- Your permanency goals will receive greater attention!
Your attorney, Caseworker, GAL, the Judge, and you will all be in the same room every 2 months to discuss your future. Your team will help you connect to relatives if that is what you want, make social connections, link to resources, and help prepare you for independent living. If you are interested in the Imua Kōkou extended voluntary care program, your team will help you become eligible. Your attendance at hearings, represented by counsel, will give you a real voice in planning for YOUR life now and in the future.
- You get Permanency Court swag!
The Judge will give you an appreciation gift card just for attending your hearings!
- If you try participating in this new project and hate it, you can quit.
Participation is voluntary, so if you try the program, but later decide that it's not for you, you can leave at any time and return to the regular calendar. Later, if you change your mind, you can re-enter Permanency Court.