

Adoption or PLC, Which is Right for Me?

	Adoption	Permanent Legal Custodianship (PLC)
What is it?	Adoption is the legal process when you become a permanent member of your adoptive family.	Permanent Legal Custodianship (PLC) is when a caregiver agrees to care for you and be responsible for you instead of the CYS agency. Also called Subsidized Permanent Legal Custodianship (SPLC). You are no longer in foster care once this agreement is approved by the court.
What about my Birth Parents?	If you are under 18, the Court will end your birth parents' parental rights before adoption.	Your birth parents may keep some rights and responsibilities. They will be able to ask the Court to give them custody of you again in the future.
Can I still see my Birth Parents?	Contact with your birth parents will be up to both your birth parents and adoptive parents to agree on. This can be set up on their own or through a legal agreement called a Post Adoption Contact Agreement (PACA) .	Your birth parents may keep the right to visit with you as long it's safe and healthy for you. Visits may be arranged by a court order or set up by both your birth parents and caregiver on their own.
What makes this official?	At the adoption hearing, the Final Decree of Adoption completes your adoption. You will also get a new Birth Certificate which lists your adoptive parents.	At the PLC hearing, the PLC Court Order completes your PLC and may include information about visitation with your birth parents.
Who makes decisions for me?	While you are under 18, adoptive parents make decisions for you.	While you are under 18, most decisions are made by your PLC caregiver, such as, your education, medical care, and activities.
Will my name change?	You don't have to change your name. You can take your adoptive family's last name or change your whole name.	Your name stays the same. If you want to change your name, it can be done through a separate court process.
Do I have a say in what I want?	If you are 12 or older, you have to consent (agree) to being adopted.	If you are 12 or older, you and your team should discuss the positives and negatives of both adoption and PLC before choosing PLC.
Will I have an inheritance?	You have the same right to inherit from your adoptive parents as a birth child would.	You will not inherit from your caregiver unless you are named in their will. You may have the right to inherit from your birth parents.

It is important that you know the difference between these two options when thinking about your future. You probably have more questions. Talk this through with your "Go-To" person.