

REFERENCE TITLE: foster youth permanency project team

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2024

## **HB 2704**

Introduced by  
Representative Gress

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 8, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY  
ADDING SECTION 8-469; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 8, chapter 4, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes,  
3 is amended by adding section 8-469, to read:

4 8-469. Foster youth permanency project team; duties;  
5 confidentiality

6 A. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PROJECT  
7 TEAM TO IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO PERMANENCY FOR CHILDREN  
8 WHO ARE LIKELY TO BE IN THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT WHEN THE CHILD TURNS  
9 EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR TO BEGIN PARTICIPATING IN THE EXTENDED FOSTER  
10 CARE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-521.02.

11 B. THE DIRECTOR SHALL APPOINT DEPARTMENT STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS WHO  
12 HAVE EXPERIENCE OR EXPERTISE IN CHILD WELFARE TO SERVE AS TEAM MEMBERS AND  
13 MAY APPOINT THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

- 14 1. MEMBERS WHO HAVE EXPERTISE OR EXPERIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK.
- 15 2. MEMBERS WHO ARE ATTORNEYS AND WHO HAVE EXPERTISE IN REPRESENTING  
16 CHILDREN OR EXPERIENCE IN CHILD WELFARE LAW.
- 17 3. MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED AS GUARDIANS AD LITEM.
- 18 4. MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED AS COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES.

19 C. THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PROJECT TEAM SHALL DO ALL OF THE  
20 FOLLOWING:

21 1. DEVELOP A METHODOLOGY FOR SELECTING THOSE CHILDREN WHO HAVE THE  
22 GREATEST LIKELIHOOD OF TURNING EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE WHILE IN THE CUSTODY  
23 OF THE DEPARTMENT WITHOUT HAVING OBTAINED PERMANENCY THROUGH ADOPTION OR A  
24 PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-872.

25 2. THOROUGHLY REVIEW THE CHILD'S CASE FILE.

26 3. CONVENE AN INITIAL FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PROJECT TEAM MEETING  
27 THAT INCLUDES THE CHILD, THE CHILD'S CAREGIVERS, THE CHILD'S ATTORNEY,  
28 DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL, GUARDIANS AD LITEM AND COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL  
29 ADVOCATES, AS APPLICABLE AND NECESSARY. AT THE INITIAL MEETING, THE  
30 FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PROJECT TEAM SHALL IDENTIFY BARRIERS TO PERMANENCY  
31 FOR EACH CHILD SELECTED AND DETERMINE THE ASSISTANCE, RESOURCES AND TOOLS  
32 NEEDED FOR EACH CHILD TO ACHIEVE PERMANENCY.

33 4. ESTABLISH AN INDIVIDUALIZED AND WRITTEN PERMANENCY PLAN FOR THE  
34 CHILD.

35 5. CONVENE ONGOING MEETINGS OF THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PROJECT  
36 TEAM TO EVALUATE THE CHILD'S PROGRESS TOWARDS PERMANENCY AND TO AMEND THE  
37 CHILD'S PERMANENCY ACTION PLAN AS NECESSARY.

38 6. IDENTIFY SPECIFIC OPTIONS TO PLACE A CHILD WITH INDIVIDUALS OR  
39 FAMILIES WHO ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO PROVIDE PERMANENCY TO A CHILD  
40 SELECTED BY THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PROJECT TEAM.

41 D. THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PROJECT TEAM SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO  
42 ALL DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PERSONNEL THAT ARE NECESSARY TO PERFORM THE  
43 DUTIES OF THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PROJECT TEAM.

1           E. THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PROJECT TEAM MAY ENTER INTO  
2 CONTRACTS WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

3           1. A CHILD OR ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIST WHO HAS EXPERTISE IN  
4 EFFECTIVE THERAPIES AND ASSESSING PROPER USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS.

5           2. AN ATTORNEY WHO HAS EXPERTISE IN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS,  
6 EDUCATION, IMMIGRATION, DISABILITY, ADOPTION AND DEPARTMENT AND CHILD  
7 WELFARE POLICIES.

8           3. A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR WHO CAN SUCCESSFULLY LOCATE RELATIVES OR  
9 KIN OF CHILDREN WHO WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS PLACEMENT OPTIONS.

10          F. THE FOSTER YOUTH PERMANENCY PROJECT TEAM SHALL TAKE REASONABLE  
11 STEPS TO PREVENT UNWARRANTED INVASIONS OF PRIVACY AND TO PROTECT THE  
12 PRIVACY AND DIGNITY OF CHILDREN WHO ARE THE SUBJECT OF A PERMANENCY ACTION  
13 PLAN.