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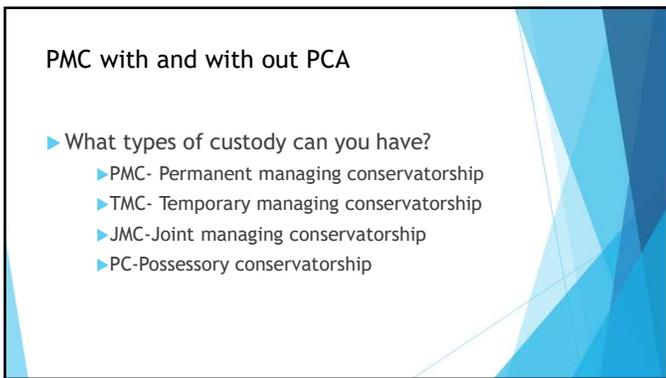
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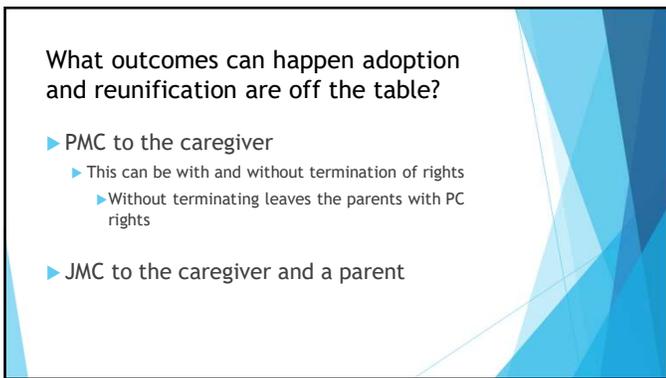
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### What is "PCA"

- ▶ PCA stands for Permanency Care Assistance
  - ▶ This program gives financial help to kinship and fictive kin caregivers who want to provide a permanent home but is NOT adopting.
  - ▶ The financial benefits range between \$400-\$545 per child a month until 18 years old depending on the child's needs

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### How can a caregiver receive this?

- ▶ To qualify a caregiver must:
  - ▶ Apply and become a licensed foster parent
  - ▶ Care for the child for 6 months as a licensed foster parent
  - ▶ Negotiate and sign a PCA agreement
  - ▶ Go to court and have the judge transfer PMC to the caregivers

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### While that sounds like a simple plan, it turns out often times not to be

- ▶ Possible delays or issues your case might run into:
  - ▶ When did the caregivers start and complete the process?
  - ▶ Has a final hearing been held before the caregivers completed this program?
    - ▶ This is usually the case which causes cases to run longer
  - ▶ Do the parents still have rights? If so, they need to be served AGAIN with the MOTION TO MODIFY
  - ▶ Do you know where the parents are?
    - ▶ If you can't find them the you have to go the serve by publication route which requires more paperwork, the judge to approve this and time delays

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### Key takeaways

- ▶ PMC CANNOT be transferred to the caregiver before the PCA agreement is signed or they will lose all benefits
- ▶ Make sure the caregivers are aware of the PCA program option early on in the case
- ▶ Be prepared for this not to be a simple and quick process like it sounds
- ▶ Remember that parents will need to be served before the judge can transfer PMC
- ▶ Even if the parents agreed to the PMC/PCA route before they are still entitled to LEGAL notice that orders are being changed

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### What is the PAL program

- ▶ PAL stands for Preparation for Adult Living
- ▶ This program is intended to help youth 16 to 18 get ready to leave foster care and live on their own

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### How does PAL do this?

- ▶ Once the child turn 16 they are assigned a PAL worker on top of their regular CPS case worker.
- ▶ This PAL worker will have several children assigned to them and their attention is focused only on the children and not the parents or caregivers

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**How does PAL do this**

- ▶ They provide services and classes to those of age
- ▶ There are multiple services under the 3 categories
  - ▶ Independent Living Skills Assessments and training
  - ▶ Optional Support Services
  - ▶ Transitional Living Allowance
  - ▶ Case management services
  - ▶ Aftercare room and board assistance

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**Independent Living Skills Assessments and Training**

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**Optional Support Services**

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**Levels of care for our children**

- ▶ What is a Level of care and what are the levels?
  - ▶ Basic
  - ▶ Moderate
  - ▶ Specialized
  - ▶ Intense

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**Who decides what Level of Care a child is?**

- ▶ Youth for Tomorrow- an independent group from CPS or placements
- ▶ How do they decide this?
- ▶ How often is this evaluated?
- ▶ How does this effect placement?

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**DFPS Resources**

- ▶ COVID-19 updates
- ▶ Child safety tips
- ▶ Recent news
- ▶ Abuse Hotline/reporting info
- ▶ Resources
- ▶ Specifics about several different departments and programs
  - ▶ Conservatorship
  - ▶ Kinship
  - ▶ PCA and many more

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