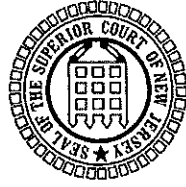


SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY MONMOUTH VICINAGE

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For Immediate Release:
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Monmouth Vicinage Observes Adoption Day

In celebration of National Adoption Day, the Monmouth Vicinage will hold a program on Friday, Dec. 7, at 1 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room in the lower level of the west wing of the Monmouth County Courthouse, 71 Monument Park, Freehold.

Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson said, "The annual Adoption Day program helps to enrich our community by promoting permanency for children in caring homes. This memorable and meaningful event also defines our commitment to increasing awareness of adoption and honoring adoptive families."

Adoptions will be finalized for 22 children ranging from two months to 13 years of age. Nine of those adoptions were arranged through the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P).

Judge Lawson will offer remarks at the program. Lisa Von Pier, an adoptive parent who serves as the director of the Division of Family and Community Partnerships in the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, also will speak.

Information about the adoption process will be available. Attendees also will be able to speak with staff from the Monmouth County Surrogate's Office and DCP&P about adopting children in foster care. If interested in becoming a licensed foster/adoptive parent, call 1-877-NJFOSTER.

For more information, contact Acting Trial Court Administrator Lori B. Cooper at 732-677-4580.

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Although adoptions are closed to the public, reporters may make arrangements to interview selected families after their adoptions conclude. Call Dianne Rodriguez at 732-677-4253 for more information.