

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Burlington Vicinage Celebrates National Adoption Day**

Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder has announced that the Burlington Vicinage will celebrate its seventh Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 22 at 9 a.m. on the sixth floor of the Courts Facility, 49 Rancocas Rd., Mount Holly.

Approximately 15 adoptions will be finalized at a ceremony and celebration recognizing National Adoption Day. The adoptions will be heard by Family Court Judge Philip E. Haines and Judge Louise D. Donaldson, who is retired and temporarily assigned on recall.

The vicinage is coordinating the event with the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency, the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Mercer/Burlington and the Burlington County Surrogate's Office.

Judge Bookbinder will give opening remarks. "It is a pleasure and privilege to be part of this special occasion," said Judge Bookbinder. "We recognize the compassion of adoptive and foster families as we seek to raise awareness of the need for every child to have a safe and loving home."

Following court proceedings, families are invited to a luncheon at the Burlington County College Mount Holly Center, 1 High St. Children's activities are scheduled, and each family will receive a complimentary family portrait and gift bags.

National Adoption Day is an annual event to celebrate the families and children whose adoptions will be finalized and to raise public awareness of the need for adoptive homes.

Members of the press are invited to attend the luncheon reception.

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**Adoption hearings are closed to the public. Reporters and photographers are invited to attend the celebration event at Burlington County College, where families who have agreed to be interviewed and/or photographed will be available. Contact Donna Mazzanti at 609-518-2518 for more information.**