

# SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

## CHANCERY DIVISION, FAMILY PART HUDSON VICINAGE

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Jersey City, New Jersey 07306

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### Hudson Vicinage Celebrates National Adoption Day

The Hudson Vicinage will celebrate National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 20. This will mark the vicinage's eighth consecutive year of participation.

Adoption proceedings for 14 children will take place at the Hudson County Administration Building, 595 Newark Ave., Jersey City. Superior Court Judges Bernadette DeCastro, Lourdes Santiago, Lois Lipton, and Nesle Rodriguez will preside.

"The family division's participation in National Adoption Day is memorable and remarkable for judges, staff, stakeholders, and volunteers, but the event marks an even more significant life-changing day for the children and families," Presiding Family Division Judge Maureen B. Mantineo said.

Once adoptions are finalized, the families will attend a celebration in the fourth floor jury room of the Administration Building. The celebration will once again be hosted by the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency and the Court Appointed Special Advocates, with contributions from the United Way, United Parcel Service, Goya Foods, Inc., CarePoint Health, and Liberty Science Center.

The festivities will continue the following day at the Liberty Science Center for all families who have finalized adoptions during the year. A total of 51 adoptions will have been finalized in 2015.

The National Adoption Center website remarks, "there are no unwanted children...just unfound families." National Adoption Day is an annual event that seeks to raise public awareness of children in foster care who are waiting to find permanent and loving families. Courts and communities across the country conduct programs to finalize adoptions of children to celebrate the adoptive families.

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**Adoption proceedings are not open to the public. Reporters and photographers are invited to attend the celebration event from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Families who have agreed to be interviewed and/or photographed will be available after their adoption proceedings conclude. Contact DCP&P representative Lizette Mateo at 201- 863-3179 x 2208 for additional information.**