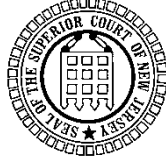


SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

Union Vicinage

Union County Courthouse
2 Broad Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07207
908-659-4644

JAMES S. AGRO
Trial Court Administrator



David Beverly
Ombudsman

For more information contact:
David Beverly, Ombudsman
908-659-4644

For immediate release:
Nov. 14, 2016

Union Vicinage Celebrates Adoption Day

Union Vicinage will celebrate Adoption Day with a ceremony on Friday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. at the Union County Courthouse, 2 Broad St., Elizabeth.

At this year's ceremony, 11 children will be adopted by eight families. The children's law guardians will greet the families and escort them to and from the courtrooms. Superior Court Judges Daniel R. Lindemann, Richard Wischusen, and James Hely will preside over the proceedings.

The vicinage is coordinating its Adoption Day program with the Union County Office of the Surrogate, the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County.

Following the adoption hearing, Union County Surrogate James S. LaCorte will host a breakfast at which the families will receive certificates from the surrogate's office and proclamations from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. CASA will distribute gifts to the families taking part in the adoption proceedings. Agencies that provide post-adoption services will distribute information to the families and answer questions. The Union County Department of Public Safety will conduct demonstrations on safely installing car seats and provide information about new car seat laws.

The vicinage will also host an adoption information fair from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. that will be open to the public. Representatives from several adoption agencies will be present to answer questions and provide information on the adoption process.

National Adoption Day is an annual event in which courts and communities in all 50 states come together to finalize thousands of adoptions and celebrate families who choose to adopt. The day is an opportunity to raise awareness of the need for adoptive homes and to show appreciation to caregivers who chose to adopt. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that there are nearly 400,000 children in foster care in the United States and more than 100,000 children are waiting to be adopted.

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Although adoption proceedings are closed to the public, arrangements will be made for reporters to interview willing families after the proceedings. Contact Sandra Thaler-Gerber, civil division manager, at 908-659-4810 for more information.