

# News Release



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GLENN A. GRANT, J.A.D.

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

For more information contact:

PETER McALEER

MARYANN SPOTO

Office of Communications and Community Relations

609-815-2910

[www.njcourts.gov](http://www.njcourts.gov)

RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX • P.O. BOX 037 • TRENTON, NJ 08625-0984

For more information contact:

Eliana Pazos

908-332-7700, ext. 13593

For immediate release:

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## **Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage to Hold Aging-Out Youth Conference**

The Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage will sponsor a daylong conference to help adolescents and young adults who are approaching the age to transition from foster care or related services to independent living.

The event will be held Friday, Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hunterdon County Justice Complex, 65 Park Ave., Flemington.

The conference is open to youth between the ages of 14 and 21 who will be transitioning from the care and/or services of the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) as well as other community-based providers.

Providing information from 15 vendors, the program will give participants the opportunity to speak with professionals from the community about jobs, vocational training, college enrollment, financial literacy, functional life skills and community-based programs.

Retired Superior Court Judge Thomas H. Dilts will provide opening remarks. Randi Mandelbaum, director of Rutgers Law School's Child Advocacy Clinic, will present "Aging Out - Don't Miss Out." Juanita Henry, a licensed social worker, will offer an overview on healthy relationships. Assistant Somerset County Prosecutor Brian Stack and prosecutor's Detective Jeanne Trillhaase will provide information regarding social media.

The conference will include "First Night" bags supplied by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and raffles provided by the New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program, Raritan Valley Community College and the Tri-County Care Management Organization. The Flemington locations of ShopRite and Chick-fil-A will donate food.

The event was created through a partnership among the vicinage's family division, CASA, DCP&P, Catholic Charities, Crossroads Program Inc., the state Office of Law Guardian, Middle Earth NJ, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families' Office of Adolescent Services, New Jersey Foster Care Scholars/Foster and Adoptive Services, and the Tri-County Care Management Organization.

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