

# News Release



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## **Middlesex Vicinage to Celebrate Adoption Day**

The Middlesex Vicinage will celebrate National Adoption Day on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at the Middlesex County Courthouse, 56 Paterson St., New Brunswick.

Assignment Judge Alberto Rivas will officiate over adoption proceedings for nine families beginning at 9 a.m.

Following the proceedings, a ceremony will be held in Judge Rivas' courtroom. Judge Rivas and Family Presiding Judge Deborah Venezia will give opening remarks. State Department of Children and Families Deputy Commissioner of Operations Katherine L. Stoehr; James P. Nolan, an attorney and longtime emcee for the event; state Sen. Joseph Vitale; and adoptive mother Suzanne Sutton also will address the group.

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 adopt. The event seeks to raise awareness of the need for adoptive homes and to show appreciation for caregivers who choose to adopt.

The vicinage's program is co-hosted by the state Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), the Middlesex County Board of Freeholders, the Middlesex County Bar Association and the Middlesex County Surrogate's Office. The vicinage held its first adoption celebration in 2007.

Information on the adoption process will be available at the reception and also can be obtained by calling DCP&P at 1-877-NJFOSTER.

Although adoption proceedings are closed to the public, arrangements will be made for reporters to interview willing families afterward. Contact Sharon Andresen at 732-645-4300, ext. 88675 or [sharon.andresen@njcourts.gov](mailto:sharon.andresen@njcourts.gov) for more information.

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