

# News Release



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## **Bergen Vicinage to Celebrate National Adoption Day 2021**

Assignment Judge Bonnie J. Mizdol announced today that the Bergen Vicinage will celebrate its second virtual National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 19 at 8:30 a.m. via the Zoom platform.

This year marks the vicinage's 13th consecutive year of participation in National Adoption Day. Superior Court Judge Jane Gallina-Mecca will finalize eight adoptions.

“Adoption Day marks the culmination of the efforts of various branches of government, and the extraordinary commitment of the resource families. The most important participants are the children whose lives are forever changed by the families who have opened their hearts and homes to them,” Judge Mizdol said.

Family Division Presiding Judge Peter Melchionne said Adoption Day historically has been hailed by all those involved as one of the happiest days in the courthouse.

Vital to the success of the event are the collaborative efforts of the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency, the Bergen County Surrogate's Office, the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Bergen County, and the vicinage's Children in Court (CIC) Unit. In place of in-person celebrations, all participating families will receive gifts, cookie cakes, and congratulations from court staff and stakeholders.

National Adoption Day is an annual event in which courts and communities in all 50 states come together to raise public awareness about the number of children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families.

Although adoption hearings are closed to the public, arrangements will be made for reporters to interview willing families upon conclusion of the adoption proceedings. For further information, contact the family division office at 201-221-0700, ext. 25201.

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