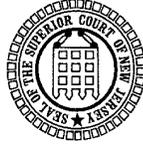


# SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

CUMBERLAND / GLOUCESTER / SALEM VICINAGE

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## New Jersey Courts to Celebrate National Adoption Month

Vicinage 15 of the New Jersey Courts will celebrate Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 17, during National Adoption Awareness Month. This year's theme is "Answering the Call: You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent. There are thousands of teens in foster care who would love to put up with you." As of Sept. 30, 2005, there were approximately 513,000 children in foster care. Children over the age of 10 represent 26 percent of the waiting foster care children.

Vicinage 15 Assignment Judge Georgia M. Curio stated, "National Adoption Day is a wonderful way to celebrate adoptions and to create awareness about the need to provide a safe, secure and permanent home for the thousands of children in foster care." She added, "Vicinage 15 is committed to facilitating the adoption process to ensure that children achieve stability and permanency. This year we are focused on emphasizing the need for older children adoptions."

The vicinage, which comprises Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties, will hold a roundtable discussion at 9 a.m. in the second floor jury management room at the Cumberland County Courthouse, Broad and Fayette Streets, Bridgeton. The main theme of the round table discussion will be the new guidelines for step parent adoptions. Members of the public, including the press and prospective adoptive parents, are invited to attend.

The panel will include representatives from the Division of Youth and Family Services, the Cumberland County Bar Association, Office of the Court Appointed Special Advocates, and representatives of the surrogates' offices in Cumberland and Gloucester County, as well as adoptive parents who have volunteered to share their experiences.

Adoption hearings will be held in all three counties during the afternoon. Adoption hearings are closed to the public.

For more information, please contact Sandra Lopez-Palmer, Esq. at 856-453-4538.

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