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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MORRIS/SUSSEX VICINAGE CELEBRATES NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY**

The Morris/Sussex Vicinage will hold its annual National Adoption Day celebration this week.

The Sussex County event will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 9 a.m. on the second floor of the Sussex County Courthouse, 43-47 High St., Newton. Family Division Judge James A. Farber will offer welcoming remarks and will preside over adoptions. A reception for adoptive families and guests will follow.

The Morris County event will be held on Friday, Nov. 20 at 1 p.m. the Morris County Records and Administration Building, 10 Court St., Morristown. Presiding Family Division Judge Maritza Berdote Byrne will give the welcoming remarks and will preside over adoptions. A reception for adoptive families and guests will follow.

The events are co-hosted by the Morris/Sussex Vicinage, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families-Child Protection and Permanency, the surrogate's offices in Morris and Sussex counties and the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Morris and Sussex Counties.

National Adoption Day is an annual event to celebrate the families and children whose adoptions will be finalized and to raise public awareness of the need for adoptive homes for more than 100,000 children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families and to encourage others to adopt.

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**Adoption hearings are closed to the public. Members of the press can contact Theresa Mahoney, assistant family division manager in Sussex County at 973-579-0610 or Dawn Carruth, assistant family division manager in Morris County at 973-656-4311 with requests to interview willing families after their adoption proceedings have concluded.**