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Passaic Vicinage Celebrates National Adoption Day

Approximately 22 adoptions will be finalized in the Passaic Vicinage on Friday, Nov. 20 as part of National Adoption Day. The event will begin at 9 a.m. at the Passaic County Courthouse, 401 Grand St., Paterson. Family Division Presiding Judge Greta Gooden Brown and Superior Court Judge Daniel J. Yablonsky will preside over the proceedings.

Following the adoptions, a reception will be held in the Jury Assembly room. Opening remarks will be given by Assignment Judge Ernest M. Caposela and Passaic County Surrogate Bernice Toledo, whose staff will provide flowers and certificates to the adoptive parents.

After the reception, the celebration will continue at Planet 301 Arcade, 301 Main St., Paterson. In addition to the vicinage, the celebration will be hosted by the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), the Passaic County Surrogate's Office, the Passaic County Bar Association, and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Along with the arcades, the event will include face painting, arts and crafts, and gifts for the children. Staff from DCP&P will dress up as Disney characters and assist at the arts and crafts tables. Each child will receive a toy from DCP&P and the Passaic County Clerk's Office. In addition, CASA will be giving out movie tickets to families in attendance.

National Adoption Day is an annual event in which courts and communities in all 50 states come together to finalize thousands of adoptions and to celebrate families who adopt. Passaic Vicinage first celebrated Adoption Day in 2007. During the 2014-2015 court year, 141 adoptions were finalized in Passaic Vicinage, up from 117 the prior year.

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Adoption proceedings are not open to the public. Reporters and photographers are invited to attend the celebration event, where families who have agreed to be interviewed or photographed will be available after their adoption proceedings. Call June Zieder at 973-247-8651 for more information.