

News Release



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Essex Vicinage to Celebrate National Adoption Day 2021

Assignment Judge Sheila Venable announced today that the Essex Vicinage will participate in National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 19 at 9:30 a.m. The event will take place virtually through Zoom.

Marking the 19th consecutive year of participating in this national event, Judge Venable, along with Superior Court Judges Wayne J. Forrest, Linda Lordi Cavanaugh, Nora J. Grimbergen, and L. Grace Spencer, will preside over the adoptions. Law clerks and family division staff also will participate

Throughout the day, the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and the Junior League of Montclair-Newark will host a virtual celebration. Breakfast pastries will be delivered to the families before the start of the program. The celebration will include a virtual tour of the Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange. Gift baskets with pastries, edible arrangements, cupcakes, books, toys, and gift cards for the children also will be distributed.

The event is coordinated in conjunction with DCP&P, the Essex County Surrogate's Office, CASA, Rutgers Law School, Seton Hall School of Law, the state Office of the Attorney General, and Office of the Public Defender. Vital to the success of the event are the efforts of the Junior League of Montclair-Newark and CASA.

National Adoption Day is a collective effort to raise awareness about the more than 125,000 children waiting to be adopted from foster care in the United States and to increase knowledge of the value of adoptions.

Although adoption hearings are closed to the public, arrangements will be made for reporters to interview willing families upon the conclusion of their adoption proceedings. For further information, contact Assistant Family Division Manager Abigail Jacobson at 973-776-9300, ext. 56575.

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