



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Colorado courts celebrate National Adoption Day, more than 150 foster children to be united with permanent families

DENVER – National Adoption Day will be celebrated in many of Colorado’s Judicial Districts from Wednesday, Nov. 14, to Monday, Nov. 19, 2012, with judges and magistrates throughout Colorado finalizing the adoption of more than 150 foster children into permanent families. Colorado is currently home to 277 children waiting for permanent families.

“Celebrating National Adoption Day here in Colorado is a growing tradition, and I am pleased to see so many of our judicial districts participating,” said Chief Justice Michael L. Bender. “While we continue to make strides in placing foster children with loving and engaged families, we must remain focused on the fact that there will always be a need to find good homes for foster kids.”

Adoption Day events in Colorado are being coordinated through the courts, state and local human services departments, as well as other local and state child agencies and advocacy groups.

Following is a rundown of Adoption Day activities in Colorado:

First Judicial District (Jefferson and Gilpin counties) – Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Jefferson County Combined Court (100 Jefferson Parkway, Golden, CO 80401) District Court Chief Judge Stephen Munsinger joins District Court Judges Tamara Russell and Ann Meinster to finalize eight adoptions for seven families. For more information contact Kris Kinzli at 720-252-2541 or Mallory Hyatt at 303-271-4389 with Jefferson County Human Services.

Second Judicial District (Denver County) – On Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse (520 W. Colfax, Denver, CO 80204). Denver Juvenile Court Judges Donna Schmalberger and D. Brett Woods will join Juvenile Court Magistrates

Howard Bartlett and Melanie Gilbert, along with Denver District Court Judge Ann Frick, to unite 52 children with 30 families. This is the eighth annual celebration of National Adoption Day in Denver. Expanded media coverage has been granted – cameras are welcome. For more information contact Barbara Bosley, Family Court Facilitator, Denver Juvenile Court, 720-337-0584.

Third Judicial District (Huerfano and Las Animas counties) – While no adoption proceedings are scheduled, District Court Judge Leslie Gerbracht reports that the Court will host a reception on Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. for families who have adopted in the past year. The reception will be held in the District Court courtroom at the Las Animas County Courthouse (200 E. 1st St., Trinidad, CO 81082). For more information contact JoAnne Montero, District Court Supervisor, at 719-497-8208 or Arlene Lopez, DHS Child Protection Unit Supervisor, at 719-846-2276.

Fifth Judicial District (Clear Creek, Eagle, Lake and Summit counties) – On Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, District Court Judge Russell Granger will preside over the adoption of 10 children. The proceedings will take place at the Clear Creek County Courthouse (405 Argentine, Georgetown, CO 80444). For more information contact Jennifer Gabriel, clerk to Judge Granger, at 303-679-4220.

Seventh Judicial District (Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties) – On Monday, Nov. 19, 2012, beginning at 4 p.m. in Room 338 of the Delta County Courthouse (501 Palmer Street, Delta, CO 81416), Delta County Court Judge Sandra K. Miller will preside over one adoption. If requested, expanded media coverage (cameras in the courtroom) will be granted. For more information contact Clerk of Court Mandy Allen at 970-874-6280.

Eighth Judicial District (Jackson and Larimer counties) – On Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 24 children will be adopted at the Larimer County Justice Center (201 La Porte Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521). District Court Judges John David Williams and Stephen E. Howard will preside. Requests for expanded media coverage (cameras in the courtroom) will be accepted. For more information contact District Administrator Janelle Brunin at 970-498-6264.

Tenth Judicial District (Pueblo County) – On Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, beginning at 11 a.m., District Court Judge Larry Schwartz will preside over one adoption. For more information contact District Administrator Bobbi Griffin at 719-583-7000.

Seventeenth Judicial District (Adams and Broomfield counties) – On Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012, from 9 a.m. to noon, 11 children will be united with permanent families. The proceedings will take place at the Adams County Justice Center (1100 Judicial Center Drive, Brighton, CO 80601). District Court Judges Michael Goodbee and Francis Wasserman will join Magistrate Gregory Beacom in presiding over the docket. For more information contact Juvenile Court Programs Coordinator Jennifer Mendoza at 303-654-3230.

Eighteenth Judicial District (Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln counties) – Adoption Day hearings will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012, from 1 to 4 p.m. and on Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. On Wednesday, District Court Chief Judge William B. Sylvester will preside over the adoption of 18 children into 14 families. On Thursday, Magistrate Kathleen Janski will preside over a yet to be determined number of adoptions. Adoption hearings on both days will be held in Courthouse 2 of the Arapahoe County Justice Center (7305 S. Potomac Street, Centennial, CO 80112). For more information contact Sara Martin, Clerk for Judge Sylvester at 720-568-4862.

Nineteenth Judicial District (Weld County) – On Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m., District Court Judge Marcelo Kopcow will preside over adoptions for 20 children and 14 families. Adoption proceedings will take place at the Weld County Courthouse (901 9th Ave. Greeley, CO 80631). For more information call Judge Kopcow's chambers at 970-475-2590.

Twentieth Judicial District (Boulder County) – On Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, beginning at 10:15 a.m., Magistrate Elizabeth Brodsky will preside over the adoptions of three children for two families. In addition to these two adoption cases, the Court will celebrate the adoptions of 11 children into 10 families over the past year. Adoption proceedings will take place in Division M of the Boulder County Justice Center (1777 Sixth Street, Boulder, CO 80302). For more information call Magistrate Brodsky's chambers at 303-441-3742.

Twenty-first Judicial District (Mesa County) – On Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, District Court Judge Valerie Robison will preside over a morning adoption docket bringing together eight children with three families. The adoptions will take place at the Mesa County Justice Center (125 N. Spruce Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501). For more information contact Judge Robison's clerk, Dee Green, at 970-257-3633. .

National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children in foster care across the country waiting to find permanent, loving families. Since its inception, National Adoption Day has made the dreams of thousands of children come

true through the cooperative work of courts, judges, attorneys, adoption professionals, child welfare agencies and advocates to finalize adoptions and find permanent, loving homes for children in foster care.

National Adoption Day is celebrated every year in November. In 2006, for the first time, National Adoption Day was celebrated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. That year, more than 250 events were held throughout the country to finalize the adoptions of more than 3,300 children in foster care, and to celebrate all families who adopt. Since 2000, more than 40,000 children have had their adoptions finalized on National Adoption Day.

Editor's Note: Except where otherwise specifically allowed, any news media organizations wishing to record audio and/or video or take still photographs of the proceedings must receive prior approval from the Court, and participants will have the choice to decline to be taped or photographed. Click [here](#) for rules governing expanded media coverage, as well as an application form.