



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Fifth annual Denver Adoption Day unites foster children with permanent families
More than 40 adoptions docketed for Nov. 20 in Denver Juvenile Court

DENVER – The fifth annual Denver Adoption Day will be celebrated in Denver Juvenile Court on Friday, Nov. 20, 2009, with judges and magistrates finalizing the adoption of more than 40 foster children with permanent families. Denver’s adoption celebrations are held in concert with the National Adoption Day program, which began in 2000.

“Adoption Day is a very special occasion for Denver Juvenile Court and one we look forward to every year,” said Denver Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Karen Ashby. “Our local participation in this national event is important because it brings families together. However, it is important to keep in mind that hundreds of other children in Colorado remain in foster care waiting for a permanent family.”

The Denver event is being coordinated through Denver Juvenile Court and Denver Human Services in conjunction with other local and state child agencies and advocates. Activities will begin at 9 a.m. with welcoming remarks by Judge Ashby in the Denver City Council’s chambers on the fourth floor of the Denver City and County Building. Other speakers will include Deputy Manager of the Denver Department of Human Services Carmen Carrillo, as well as former Denver Bronco Reggie Rivers and Brian Rimar, both adoptive parents.

In addition to Judge Ashby, Judge D. Brett Woods, Judge Donna Schmalberger, Magistrate Martha Timmers and Magistrate Kathleen Janski are docketed to preside over the day’s adoption proceedings. Adoptions will begin at 10 a.m. in Denver Juvenile Court’s first and second floor courtrooms.

Colorado is currently home to nearly 550 children waiting for permanent families; 88 of the children live in Denver.

“Adoption Day really epitomizes the mission of Denver Human Services. The 40-plus children being adopted as part of this event are a portion of more than 200 that will finalize adoptions this year in Colorado,” said Jay Morein, Deputy Manager of DHS. “Our employees work throughout the year to make sure every child has a safe and loving home to call their own.”

National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the 114,000 children in foster care across the country waiting to find permanent, loving families. For the past nine years, 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.

Editor's Notes: With respect to Expanded Media Coverage, Judge Ashby has signed an order allowing cameras in the courtrooms for these proceedings on Nov. 20. As such, the court asks that no additional EMC requests be filed. Media outlets will be assigned individual courtrooms prior to the start of the adoption hearings.

For additional information please contact Barbara Bosley, Family Court Facilitator, Denver Juvenile Court, 1437 Bannock Street, Room 157, Denver, CO 80202, 720-865-8236, 720-865-8270 (fax).

Denver Adoption Day Committee: Beth Bacon, Adoption Exchange; Revekka Balancier, Denver Department of Human Services; Barbara Bosley, Denver Juvenile Court; Laura Coale, Denver Human Services; Linda Greene, Child Advocates (Denver CASA); Breanna Griffin, Denver Department of Human Services; Jay Jones, Attorney at Law; Shana Kloek, Denver Juvenile Court; Rob McCallum, State Court Administrator's Office; Laurel Moore, Colorado Department of Human Services; Jill Morin, Adoption Exchange; Anne Pierce, Denver Department of Human Services; Shannon Rios, Life Threads; Renee Romero, Denver Juvenile Court; Tammy Rula, Denver Department of Human Services; Gretchen Russo, Denver Juvenile Court; Lizbeth Rustad-Ponder, Denver Department of Human Services; Jon Sarche, State Court Administrator's Office; Myra Stroup, Denver Department of Human Services; Amanda Tin, Adoption Alliance; Linda Trantow, Denver Department of Human Services; Connie Vigil, Colorado Department of Human Services.

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