



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Sixth annual Denver Adoption Day unites foster children with permanent families
Ninety-three adoptions docketed for Nov. 19 in Denver Juvenile Court

DENVER – The sixth annual Denver Adoption Day will be celebrated in Denver Juvenile Court on Friday, Nov. 19, 2010, with judges and magistrates finalizing the adoption of 93 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 always a heart-felt occasion for everyone involved, and one we look forward to every year,” said Denver Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Karen Ashby. “We continue to participate locally in this national event to not only bring families together, but to remain focused on the fact that there are hundreds of other children across Colorado 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.

“We hope to reunify children with their parents when we can do so safely,” Judge Ashby said. “When we are unable to reunite children with their parents we make every effort to find an adoptive family for children. We unfortunately have more children who need permanent homes than we have adoptive placements.”

Denver Adoption Day activities will begin at 9 a.m. with welcoming remarks by Judge Ashby in the Cisneros Jury Assembly Room of the Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse (520 W. Colfax). Other speakers will include Manager of the Denver Department of Human Services Patricia Wilson-Pheanious and Patrick Priest, an adoptive parent.

Judge D. Brett Woods, Judge Donna Schmalberger, Judge Michael Martinez, Judge John Madden IV, Judge Edward Bronfin, Magistrate Melanie Gilbert and Magistrate Howard Bartlett are docketed to preside over the day's adoption proceedings. Adoptions hearings will be held from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Court's second floor courtrooms.

Colorado is currently home to more than 300 children waiting for permanent families; 117 of the children live in Denver.

"Every year at Denver Human Services, we look forward to Adoption Day with great anticipation," said Manager Patricia Wilson Pheanious. "This day, these children and these families, represent the peak of the work we do to ensure 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. 19. 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, 520 W. Colfax, Room 125, Denver, CO 80204, 303-337-0584, 303-337-0574 (fax).

Denver Adoption Day Committee: Revekka Balancier, Denver Human Services; Sarah Barnes, Denver Human Services; Margaret Booker, Denver Human Services; Barbara Bosley, Denver Juvenile Court; Lisa Fischer, CU Law Student; Breanna Griffin, Denver Human Services; Kristen Hampton, Denver Human Services; Alison Jensen, CU Law Student; Shana Kloek, Denver Juvenile Court; Michelle Lopez, Denver Human Services; Rob McCallum, State Court Administrator's Office; Laurel Moore, Colorado Human Services; Jill Morin, Adoption Exchange; Lisa O'Dell-Davis, Child Advocates (Denver CASA); Anne Pierce, Denver Human Services; Shannon Rios, Life Threads; Renee Romero, Denver Juvenile Court; Tammy Rula, Denver Human Services; Gretchen Russo, Denver Juvenile Court/Denver Human Services; Jon Sarché, State Court Administrator's Office; Myra Stroup, Denver Human Services; Amanda Tin, Adoption Alliance; Linda Trantow, Denver Human Services; Connie Vigil, Colorado Human Services.

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