



# MICHIGAN ADOPTION DAY

Giving  
thanks for  
families

## News Release

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### Michigan Adoption Day Nov. 25 More than 250 children will be adopted today

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Nov. 25, 2003

Today is **Michigan Adoption Day**, a day Michigan courts and public agencies give thanks to adoptive families. Thirty-four courts serving 35 counties will host adoptions for more than 250 children today – children that were permanent state wards and are now entering permanent, loving homes.

A part of National Adoption Day – which was held Nov. 22 – Michigan Adoption Day is organized by the Michigan Supreme Court and Family Independence Agency. Partnering private agencies include Orchard Children's Services, Lutheran Adoption Services (LAS), LAS of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Ennis Center for Children, Child and Family Services of Northwest Michigan, Teen Ranch, Catholic Social Services of Muskegon (that covers Ottawa County), Bethany Christian Services in Traverse City, Michigan Federation for Children and Families and Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange.

"I applaud the efforts of Adoption Day and its partners to place children in homes with loving parents," Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm said. "Every child deserves to grow up in a safe place with caring parents, and Adoption Day is helping our state achieve that goal."

Two dozen court and public officials are participating in events around the state today including:

- **Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura Corrigan** and **FIA director Nannette M. Bowler** will attend events in Wayne County; Bowler will also participate in Livingston County events.
- **Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly** will attend events in Lenawee and Washtenaw counties.
- **Supreme Court Justice Stephen Markman** will attend events in Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties.
- **Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Weaver** will attend events in Grand Traverse County.
- **Court of Appeals Chief Judge William Whitbeck** will attend events in Jackson County.
- **Appeals Court Judge Michael Smolenski** will attend events in Ionia County.
- **FIA deputy director Kathryn Fehrman** will attend events in Saginaw County.
- **FIA deputy director Jim Nye** will attend events in St. Joseph County.
- **U.S. Rep. Dave Camp** will attend events in Midland County.
- **State Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi** of Farmington Hills will attend events in Oakland County.
- **State Sen. Mike Goschka of Brant** will attend events in Saginaw County.

A complete list of county courts participating in Adoption Day and the time of each court's event is included on the following page.

### Courts participating in Adoption Day Nov. 25 include:

County	Court	Address/location	Time
Allegan	Probate Court	Juvenile Court Center, 2242 33 <sup>rd</sup> St., Allegan	11 A.M.
Alpena	Circuit Court	Circuit Court Family Division, 719 W. Chisholm St., Alpena	2:30 P.M.
Antrim	Probate Court	County Building, 205 Cayuga, Bellaire	1-3 P.M.
Bay	Probate Court	1230 Washington Ave., Suite 715, Bay City	10 A.M.-1 P.M.
Calhoun	Probate Court	W.K. Kellogg Foundation, One Michigan Ave., Battle Creek	10 A.M.-Noon
Cass	Probate Court	Law & Courts Building, 60296 M-62, Ste. 26, Cassopolis	12:15 A.M.-3 P.M.
Charlevoix/Emmet	Probate District 7	Emmet County Courthouse, 200 Division St., Petoskey	2-3:15 P.M.
Cheboygan	Probate Court	Courthouse, 807 S. Main St., Cheboygan	10:30 & 11:30 A.M.
Chippewa	Probate Court	Courthouse, 319 Court St., Sault Ste. Marie	2 P.M.
Delta	Probate Court	County Building, 310 Ludington St., Escanaba	11 A.M.
Genesee	Probate Court	900 S. Saginaw, 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor West, Flint	11 A.M.
Grand Traverse	Probate Court	400 Boardman St., Traverse City	11:45 A.M.-1 P.M.
Hillsdale	Probate Court	Courthouse, 29 N. Howell, Hillsdale	11 A.M.
Ingham	30 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing	10 A.M.
Ionia	Probate Court	100 E. Main St., Ionia	1:30-3:30 P.M.
Isabella	Probate Court	County Bldg., 300 N. Main St., Mt. Pleasant	10 A.M.-Noon
Jackson	Probate Court	Courthouse, 312 S. Jackson St., 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Jackson	9-11 A.M. & 1-2:30 P.M.
Kalamazoo	Probate Court	150 E. Crosstown Parkway, Kalamazoo	9:30 A.M.-2 P.M.
Kalkaska	Probate Court	Government Center, 605 N. Birch St., Kalkaska	9 A.M. & 9:30 A.M.
Lenawee	Probate Court	Martin Judicial Building, 425 N. Main St., Adrian	1:30 P.M.
Livingston	Probate Court	Courthouse, 204 S. Highlander Way, Howell	2-5 P.M.
Macomb	16 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Court	Court Building, 40 N. Main, Mt. Clemens	9 A.M.
Midland	Probate Court	Courthouse, 301 W. Main St., Midland	10 A.M.
Monroe	Probate Court	Courthouse, 106 E. First St., Monroe	2 P.M.
Newaygo	Probate Court	1092 Newell St., White Cloud	10-11 A.M.
Oakland	Probate Court	Courthouse Tower, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac	8:30, 9 and 10 A.M.
Oscoda	Probate Court	Courthouse Annex, Court Street, Mio	8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.*
Ottawa	Probate Court	12120 Fillmore St., West Olive	10 A.M.-Noon
Saginaw	Probate Court	Juvenile Center, 3360 Hospital Rd., Saginaw	10:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.
St. Joseph	Probate Court	Courthouse, 125 Main St., Centreville	9 A.M.
St. Clair	Probate Court	County Bldg., 201 McMorran Blvd., Port Huron	9 A.M.-Noon
Tuscola	Probate Court	Courthouse, 440 N. State St., Caro	10 & 11:30 A.M.
Washtenaw	22 <sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court	Courthouse, 101 E. Huron, Ann Arbor	10 A.M.-1 P.M.
Wayne	Juvenile Court	Lincoln Hall of Justice, 1025 Forest Ave., Courtroom 2B, Detroit	9 A.M.-2 P.M.

\*Informational open house only

**For information on the public adoption process and results in the most recent fiscal year, see the attachment [Adoption Facts](#) on the following page.**

# Adoption Facts

- The goal of Michigan's Adoption Services Program is to place children in adoption as quickly as possible following termination of parental rights.
- Whenever possible, these placements are with families that already have an existing relationship or attachment to the child (relatives and foster parents) where siblings are placed together in an adoptive home.

## During Fiscal Year 2002

- There were 2,833 adoptions finalized in through FIA offices and private adoption agencies.
- A relative or foster parent adopted 91 percent of those children.
- 54 percent of children adopted were age 6 years or older.
- 80 percent were adopted with at least one sibling.
- Approximately 6,400 children are in FIA foster care with their parental rights terminated. Approximately 4,600 of those children have a goal of adoption. The remaining are either older youths who are satisfied with their placements and do not wish to be adopted or youth with other living arrangements where adoption is not appropriate. Of those 4,600 with a goal of adoption, most have a family identified and the FIA is actively looking for homes for about 400 children without an identified adoptive family.

### How it works

- The Adoption Services Program provides services to children whose parental rights have been terminated due to child abuse or neglect and to families that want to adopt.
- Services are provided either directly by local office FIA adoption staff or through adoption purchase of service contracts with approximately 50 private Michigan child-placing agencies.
- Children receiving adoption services are in foster care and generally have special needs – the child is older, a member of a racial minority, part of a sibling group that needs to be placed together, and/or a child with physical, mental, or emotional impairments.
- The FIA Adoption Services Division is responsible for administration of adoption policy, adoption contract management, adoption subsidy and medical subsidy and other post-adoption services including Post Adoption Resource Centers, Central Adoption Registry and Inquiry and the Michigan Children's Institute.

### Barriers to Adoption

Children available are permanent state wards who cannot return to their birth home. These children often have special psychological needs as a result of being victims of abuse and neglect. They may be emotionally guarded and apprehensive about accepting placement in an adoptive home. Children may be older and/or have siblings with whom they should be adopted or maintain contact. Families wishing to adopt children from the foster care system need to be prepared to face the challenges of providing permanency in a nurturing environment.

## For more information

- For more information on **Michigan Adoption Day** go to this Internet web site:  
<http://www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Press/MichiganAdoptionDayIndex.htm>
- For more information on **children awaiting adoption in Michigan** go to <http://www.mare.org>
- For more information on **public adoption policies and data** go to <http://www.michigan.gov/fia> and click on "Adoption"
- For information on a 10-year history of public adoptions see **Adoptive Placements 1993-2002** online at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/FIA-AdoptPlacements\\_13094\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/FIA-AdoptPlacements_13094_7.pdf)