



# **MICHIGAN ADOPTION DAY**

**Giving thanks for families**

**NOVEMBER 2019**

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## **Adoption Month 2019 Toolkit**

### Ideas for an Event

If your court plans to hold a public adoption, here are some ideas:

- Plan a reception, luncheon, open house, or picnic for potential adoptive families; include simple foods and activities for children
- Host a reunion for families who held adoptions at your court in the past
- Hold an ice cream social
- Arrange for face painting for the kids
- Create selfie frames and take photos to post to social media; photograph all families and send them a copy with a thank you for their presence at the event
- Have crayons and color books available
- Create (or bring) kid-friendly games
- Bring in a food truck or two so that all employees can participate
- Invite Social Services agencies to participate
- Put out a press release about the importance of adoption
- Post details and information about your event on social media
- Submit a guest editorial or letter to local newspapers



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### Talking Points

- Nationally, Adoption Month is held every November. Michigan courts are encouraged to hold open adoption ceremonies throughout the month.
- Adoption Day at the Michigan Supreme Court is held the Tuesday before Thanksgiving each year to highlight the importance of finding “forever homes” for children in foster care who are eligible for adoption.
- This year, Adoption Day at the Michigan Supreme Court is Monday, November 26, and is the 16<sup>th</sup> year that the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services have sponsored this important event. You can follow them on Twitter at #adoptionequalslove.
- Typically, adoptions are finalized in private, but on Adoption Day, more than 30 courts statewide are expected to open their doors to raise awareness and to inspire more families to think about adoption.
- More than 1,900 children were adopted in Michigan in FY 2017 through DHHS or private adoption agencies.
- Currently, there are about 13,000 children in foster care, with nearly 300 without an identified adoptive family.
- People can adopt whether they’re single or married. They don’t have to be wealthy or own their own home, but must have adequate financial resources to provide for a family.
- Children in the foster care system become eligible for adoption following termination of parental rights due to abuse or neglect. The goal for most of these children is reunification with their families.
- There is support for families who want to adopt. In fact, approximately 95 percent of children who are available for adoption qualify for assistance to help families with some of the costs of bringing children into their homes.
- Families interested in adopting should contact the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange at 800-589-6273 or visit [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org)



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### Tips for Using Social Media

- Create a Facebook or Twitter Account for your court (or use your court's existing account) to publicize your event
- Create a hashtag to collect your posts in a category (#EatonCountyAdoption or #CalhounAdoption2018)
- Post photos taken at your event (and send a copy to the Public Information Office for posting on social media)
- Post historical facts about your court's previous events
- Post articles of interest
- Invite your local news outlets to cover the event
- Take the opportunity to highlight judges within your court who perform adoptions
- Follow the Michigan Supreme Court on social media at:

ONE COURT OF JUSTICE WEBSITE

[courts.mi.gov](http://courts.mi.gov)



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Logo and Resolution

(Available on the Supreme Court's web page)

<http://courts.mi.gov/courts/michigansupremecourt/oral-arguments/pages/default.aspx>



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## Adoption Month 2019 Toolkit

Sample Media Advisory

[INSERT COURT SEAL, LOGO, OR LETTERHEAD]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [DATE]

### MEDIA ADVISORY

[COURT NAME/LOCATION] to Celebrate Adoption Month in Michigan

- Who:** [LIST JUDGES FIRST, THEN OTHER PROMINENT SPEAKERS]  
[ADOPTIVE FAMILIES]
- What:** Special event to celebrate Adoption Month in Michigan. [INCLUDE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATURE OF YOUR EVENT.]
- When:** [DATE, TIME, including when program begins]
- Where:** [EVENT LOCATION AND STREET ADDRESS]
- Why:** With the theme of “Giving Thanks for Families,” courts statewide will celebrate Adoption Month. Held during November, Adoption Month has become a holiday tradition, highlighting the importance of adoption and the needs of children in foster care.
- The court will [HOST A RECEPTION, FINALIZE \_\_\_ ADOPTION(S) - ADD INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR EVENT]



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## Adoption Month 2019 Toolkit

Sample Press Release

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[INSERT COURT SEAL, LOGO, OR LETTERHEAD]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [DATE]

[COURT NAME/LOCATION] to Celebrate Adoption Month in Michigan

[CITY, MI], [DATE] – The [COURT NAME, LOCATION] today celebrated Adoption Day at/in [LOCATION], by hosting [NAME OF ACTIVITY]. [COURT NAME] joins courts statewide in celebrating Adoption Month throughout November, highlighting the importance of adoption and the needs of children in foster care.

[ADD QUOTE FROM PRESIDING JUDGE]. (For example, “Adoption Day is one of the happiest days at the Court. It’s a day where both laughter and tears occur simultaneously,” said Judge \_\_\_\_\_. It reminds us of the importance of those who work so tirelessly on behalf of children in foster care.)

There are more than 107,000 U.S. children currently in foster care waiting to be adopted. This annual event has made the dreams of thousands of children come true by working with courts, practitioners, and adoption advocates to finalize adoptions and unify foster children with their forever family.

National Adoption Day began in the year 2000 in an effort to move adoptions through the court system. For more information about adopting, visit the [Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange](#).

The Supreme Court will hold its Adoption Day event on Tuesday, November 26, at 10:00 a.m. at the Hall of Justice. Visit the Court’s Adoption Month web page [here](#) for additional details.