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California Courts Declare November as Court Adoption and Permanency Month

San Francisco—The Judicial Council has adopted a [resolution](#) declaring November as “Court Adoption and Permanency Month.” The resolution, approved on October 24, is part of the council’s continuing commitment to improving the lives of children and their families by working with the Governor, the Legislature, and local court communities to achieve permanency for children.

“Court Adoption and Permanency Month recognizes the important [fact] that all children in foster care need a permanent placement. If they cannot have permanent placement, they at least need to have a permanent connection,” said Diane Nunn, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts’ Center for Children, Family & the Courts ([CFCC](#)), which provides information to courts regarding adoption and permanency. “The focus is on finding family and life-long connections for children who are in foster care, especially those aging out of the system.”

In 2007, of the approximately 34,000 children leaving foster care, 54 percent were reunited with their families, 22 percent were adopted, and 13 percent were emancipated. About 490,000 reports of child abuse and neglect are made and more than 25,000 children enter foster care each year. About 75,000 children have been away from their families in out-of-home care for more than two years.

Lanette Scott, emancipated foster youth and current CFCC student intern, spoke before the council, making a case for support of foster youth. “Today someone turns 18. Today someone walks into society and walks into the unknown. Imagine being that 18-year-old for someone to tell you, ‘We’ve supported you for 18 years but now you’re on your own.’ This is the reality for the thousands of foster youth who age out of the [foster care] system. We know that they’re very vulnerable to social and economic poor outcomes. And having the burden of neglect and isolation . . . they’re considered to be productive and self-reliant and supposed to be connected members of society. . . . I was able to escape the daunting challenge that most foster youth face.” (Click to [listen](#) to her story.)

As part of Court Adoption and Permanency Month, several California courts will sponsor adoption events, including Adoption Saturdays and other locally designated days throughout the month. On Adoption Saturdays, judges, court staff, attorneys, and adoption agencies will volunteer their time to finalize adoptions of children and celebrate with the adoptive families. Court communities statewide will hold celebrations to finalize adoptions during [Court Adoption and Permanency Month](#). The month of November was selected to coincide with National Adoption Month. National Adoption Day is celebrated this year on November 15, 2008.

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.