



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Judicial Council Declares November Adoption and Permanency Month

### *Courts Statewide to Host Special Events and Programs for Foster Youth*

San Francisco—California courts will be hosting special events throughout November to educate the community about the continuing need for adoption and permanency of foster children and youth. Adoption Saturdays, now a yearly tradition, are held the Saturday before Thanksgiving. This event and others are efforts to encourage adoptions of foster children in their communities.

The Judicial Council of California declared November as Court Adoption and Permanency Month to coincide with national efforts. To see the resolution that includes statistics on California's children involved with the foster care system, please go to

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/pdffiles/2007AdoptJCRes.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/pdffiles/2007AdoptJCRes.pdf).

For a schedule of court adoption and permanency events taking place across California go to

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/pdffiles/2007NovemberAdoptevents.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/pdffiles/2007NovemberAdoptevents.pdf). Included in the schedule are events and programs from the courts, agencies, and other public and private organizations, many of which collaborate to finalize adoptions and provide celebrations for the families.

One of these programs is the Heart Gallery. Currently 8 Heart Galleries serve 15 counties to help raise community awareness through professional photography exhibits of children and foster youth in need of adoptive families and permanent lifelong relationships. For more information, see

[www.adoptuskids.org/resourceCenter/heartGallery/exhibits.aspx](http://www.adoptuskids.org/resourceCenter/heartGallery/exhibits.aspx).

### What Is Youth Permanency?

(more)

Permanency is a concept not easily defined but is particularly important to foster youth. The California Permanency for Youth Project defines youth permanency as both a process and a result. Permanency includes involvement of the youth as a participant or leader in finding a permanent connection with at least one committed adult, who provides a safe, stable, and secure parenting relationship; love; unconditional commitment; lifelong support in the context of reunification, as legal adoption or guardianship, where possible. The youth also has the opportunity to maintain contact with important persons, including brothers and sisters.

### **Reaching Out to Trial Courts**

Since the first Court Adoption and Permanency Month in 1999, the AOC has collected information about adoption and permanency in a manual for the courts, county agencies, and other community service providers to help plan events and provide resources. The guide has been distributed to all trial courts each year. For more information, the guide is available on the Center for Families, Children & the Courts at the California Courts Web site at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/programs/description/AdoptPermGuide.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/programs/description/AdoptPermGuide.htm).

For more information about court adoption and permanency programs and resources, go to [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/programs/description/AdoptionandPermanency.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/programs/description/AdoptionandPermanency.htm).

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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.*