



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Focus on Forever Families at Michigan Adoption Day on November 24 Washtenaw Families to Highlight Ceremonies at Michigan Supreme Court

LANSING, MI, November 17, 2015 – With the theme of “Giving Thanks for Families,” courts statewide will celebrate Adoption Day on Tuesday, November 24th. Held on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving each year, Adoption Day has become holiday tradition, highlighting the importance of adoption and the needs of children in foster care. Many courts will finalize adoptions while others will hold informational events to reach potential adoptive parents. [Click here for a list of events statewide.](#)

Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr. said Michigan Adoption Day is aimed at raising awareness and encouraging potential adoptive and foster parents to step forward. Young noted that, while adoption finalization hearings are usually private, many participating courts will open their hearings to the public. “Adoption Day gives the public a window into the adoption process,” Young said. “This is a celebration of adoption, but our purpose is to educate the public about the rewards of being an adoptive parent. Every child deserves a loving, forever home.”

On Tuesday November 24 at 10 a.m. in the Supreme Court courtroom in Lansing, Chief Justice Young and Justice Bridget M. McCormack will join Washtenaw Circuit Judge Timothy Connors and Tribal Judge Michael Petoskey in finalizing adoptions for families from Washtenaw County.

Justice Stephen J. Markman, Justice David F. Viviano, Justice Joan L. Larsen, and Court of Appeals Chief Judge Michael Talbot will also lend a hand as judges in more than 30 courtrooms around the state create forever homes for about 100 children:

- Justice Markman, Jackson County, November 20 - 9 a.m. (note different date)
Jackson Co. Bldg. 312 S. Jackson St., Jackson
- Justice Markman, Cass County, November 24 -2 p.m.
Cass County Courthouse, 60296 M-62, Cassopolis
- Justice Viviano, Macomb County, November 24 - 9 a.m.
Macomb County Courthouse, 40 N. Main St., Mt. Clemens
- Justice Viviano, Wayne County, November 24 - 10:30
Coleman A. Young Municipal Ctr., 2 Woodward Ave., Detroit
- Justice Larsen, Oakland County, November 24 - 9 a.m.
1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac
- Court of Appeals Chief Judge Michael Talbot, Kalamazoo County, November 24 - 10 a.m.
Kalamazoo County Courthouse, 1400 Gull Road, Kalamazoo

Michigan Adoption Day is co-sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Child Welfare Services division of the State Court Administrative Office, and Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE).

“Michigan is committed to responding to the needs of adoptive families and understands the value in providing post-adoption services to families; post-adoption services are available statewide through eight

resource centers” DHHS Director Nick Lyon said. “The state continues to make significant progress in finding forever homes for our state’s most vulnerable youth.”

Anyone interested in adopting a child may contact MARE at 3840 Packard Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48108. MARE can be also reached Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. at (800) 589-6273 (in Michigan), via fax at (734) 528-1695, or through the [MARE website](#).

The ceremony in the Supreme Court courtroom on November 24th will also include the presentation of the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award. Jointly sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the award was established in honor of the late Daniel J. Wright of Grand Ledge. As director of the Friend of the Court Bureau and Child Welfare Services divisions of the State Court Administrative Office, Wright helped create the state’s “Adoption Forums” to deal with adoption barriers that were stranding children in foster care. He worked on legislation to give foster children a greater voice in decisions about their lives. The law now requires courts to consult the child when holding a hearing about permanent home placement.

Michigan Adoption Fast Facts

- As of September 30, there are about 13,000 children in Michigan’s foster care system.
- There are about 2,400 children whose parents’ rights have been terminated and have a goal of adoption.
- More than 1,700 children were adopted in Michigan in FY2015 through DHHS or private adoption agencies. On average 51 percent of children were adopted by their foster parents, 40 percent of children were adopted by relatives, and 9 percent of children were adopted by a recruited family.
- Approximately 90 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.
- The total amount of adoption assistance paid to adoptive families by the state of Michigan is about \$240 million annually.
- Michigan’s Adoption Medical Subsidy Program is a reimbursement program that assists in paying for services for adopted children who have an identified physical, mental, or emotional condition which existed, or the cause of which existed, before the adoption petition was filed.
- Post adoption services are available statewide through eight Post Adoption Resource Centers and offer the following services: case management, including short-term and emergency in-home intervention; coordination of community services; information dissemination; education; training; advocacy; family recreation activities and support.

The Court broadcasts its oral arguments and other events in the courtroom [live](#) on the Internet via streaming video technology. [Streaming](#) will begin shortly before the ceremony begins at 10 a.m.

Media are invited to cover Adoption Day. Please see the link to [Request and Notice for Film and Electronic Media Coverage of Court Proceedings](#).