



MICHIGAN ADOPTION DAY

Giving thanks for families

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2016

TO: Probate and Family Division Judges
cc: Probate Registers
Court Administrators

FROM: Barbara Browne, Court Relations Program Coordinator
John Nevin, Michigan Supreme Court Communications Director

RE: Michigan Adoption Day - Tuesday, November 22, 2016

DATE: July 21, 2016

Courthouses are rarely a place of happiness and celebration. But on Tuesday, November 22, 2016, we hope to celebrate many happy occasions as part of Michigan Adoption Day 2016 – and to educate the public about the many foster children who need permanent homes.

Michigan Adoption Day, now in its 14th year, has become a tradition for many Michigan communities. Held each year on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, the theme is “Giving thanks for families.” With 30 or more counties participating annually, Michigan’s event is consistently the largest Adoption Day observance in the nation.

Our goal is to inform the public about the adoption process and the fact that many Michigan children need permanent homes. Michigan Adoption Day is also a good opportunity to educate the public about other foster care issues.

While November 22 is the preferred date for Michigan Adoption Day events, any events or efforts during the month of November will count toward participation. Please let us know if dates other than November are more appropriate for your court. For example, courts in the northern Lower Peninsula or the UP might find a date prior to hunting season works better for you. Just let us know.

There are numerous ways to participate in Michigan Adoption Day:

- Finalize adoptions at hearings open to the public where feasible. Many courts start the day with a short program or follow the hearings with a reception for the adoptive families.
- Hold a program, party, or reunion for families who adopted within the past year.
- Hold an “adoption fair” to educate the public (including potential adoptive parents) about adoption. Some courts have a formal program with speakers; others set up a table with handouts. Judges, DHHS workers, adoptive parents, and representatives from private agencies unite in these efforts. Social media is another way to share heart-warming stories.

- Work with local media to cover adoption and foster care issues. For example, you could write a guest column for a local newspaper. In addition, you could work with a local public access cable channel to videotape all or part of the Adoption Day event for broadcast.

The Michigan Supreme Court Office of Public Information has a variety of materials for participating courts: talking points, DHHS statistics, and Adoption Day letterhead and logo. We can also arrange for a Supreme Court justice or Court of Appeals judge to attend your event. Those who are interested in a guest speaker from the appellate courts are encouraged to contact the Office of Public Information as soon as possible.

Participating courts are also encouraged to register their events with the [National Adoption Day Website](#). By registering, you will have access to a wealth of information and materials, including free teddy bears and banners.

As we get closer to the date, the Supreme Court will make a statewide announcement about Michigan Adoption Day. For now, we ask that you use the November 22 date for planning purposes only.

We hope you will consider participating in this year's Michigan Adoption Day. Please contact us with any questions.

Barb Browne: (517) 373-0714 or BrowneB@courts.mi.gov
Court Relations Program Coordinator

John Nevin: (517) 373-0129 or NevinJ@courts.mi.gov
Michigan Supreme Court Communications Director