



More Than 20 Children To Be Adopted In Remote Juvenile Court Proceedings On Adoption Day November 20, 2020

CT Celebrates Permanency For Children In Foster Care By Engaging With Youth, Listening and Learning

HARTFORD -- The Connecticut Department of Children and Families (CT DCF) and the Superior Courts for Juvenile Matters are pivoting to remote adoption proceedings this year to celebrate CT Adoption Day.

More than 20 children in foster care are scheduled to be adopted through virtual proceedings with seven different juvenile courts on Friday, November 20. The proceedings are the final court action needed to complete the adoption process.

Governor Ned Lamont said that despite the considerable challenges posed by the pandemic, the adoptions that are occurring today are a testament to the dedication and partnership among the families, the courts, and the Department of Children and Families.



"I am immensely proud of our families who adopt, but also the Department of Children and Families and the Judicial Branch for being creative, collaborating tirelessly, and achieving permanency for these wonderful children," Governor Lamont said.

CT DCF Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes said CT Adoption Day is a celebration of one of the important ways the department advances permanency for children.

"It is beautiful to see the faces of the children and their families the moment the court finalizes the adoption." Commissioner Dorantes said.

Chief Court Administrator Patrick L. Carroll III said the day is the culmination of a process in which DCF, the Judicial Branch, private service providers and families join to provide permanency for children. "Many caring and committed professionals - including social work staff, court staff, and community partners -- work in tandem with the families to produce a great outcome for children," Judge Carroll said. "That cooperation is essential to achieve permanency for our children."

The national theme for Adoption Day this year is "Engage Youth: Listen and Learn". Commissioner Dorantes said the department has taken its cues from older youth in foster care who call for permanency in all its different forms.

Commissioner Dorantes noted that youth serving on statewide and regional advisory boards have told her that permanency by way of stability, is essential no matter which form it takes.

"We know that, when possible, preventing the removal of children remains the Department's priority. For those children who cannot remain safely at home, we work extensively with their families towards reunification and see great successes. Our permanency work also extends to transfers of guardianship and adoption as examples of the additional ways children experience long term stability" she said.

Last calendar year, 663 adoptions of children in foster care were finalized. During the same time period, 782 children in foster care were reunified with their families of origin. More than 90 percent of children served by the department remain at home with their birth families, and 60 percent of children who must be removed to ensure their safety are returned home.

"It isn't the only way we secure permanency for children, however adoption is one of the important ways we, as part of caring communities, can fulfill our obligation to children in foster care," Commissioner Dorantes said. "Especially during these unprecedented times, CT DCF truly appreciates the love extended to children by the families who are adopting today. These are exceptional people who have opened their hearts and homes; we cannot thank them enough."