



## DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES



*Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities*

Joette Katz  
Commissioner

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

For Immediate Release  
November 1, 2018

Contact: Gary Kleeblatt  
Office: 860-550-6305  
Cell: 860-622-9824

### **The Joy of Adoption Is The Focus As CT Celebrates Adoption Awareness Month**

#### ***Families Who Adopt Find Emotional Rewards***

**HARTFORD** – Connecticut joins the national celebration of Adoption Awareness Month this year with an emphasis on the emotional rewards that families experience through adoption.

A number of events this month will highlight what adoption means to both parents and children, including adoptions occurring in open court sessions and the premiere of a feature movie about a family who adopts three children, including a teenager.

Connecticut had another successful year in completing adoptions and transferring guardianships for many children who benefit from these permanent family homes. For the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) completed 519 adoptions and transferred guardianship for 352 children. Guardianship is typically transferred to family members and without having to terminate parental rights, which often is preferred by the families themselves.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy said families who provide permanent homes for children in foster care are wonderful people who love children and derive tremendous satisfaction as a result. “The families say that they experience great joy in opening their homes to these deserving kids.” Governor Malloy said. “It is heart-warming to see, and I cannot thank the families enough.”

DCF Commissioner Joette Katz said finding these permanent homes for children is a highlight for anyone who does the very difficult work of child protection. “Much of our work involves a lot of complex decision making along with the families we serve and sometimes a lot of heartache,” Commissioner Katz said. “So when we get the chance to celebrate adoption, it is an important reminder that child welfare accomplishes a lot of good in supporting permanent family homes for very deserving children.”

This year, Connecticut will celebrate Adoption Day on November 16 with adoptions occurring in juvenile court proceedings across the state. That day is also the national premiere of a feature-length movie about a family that adopts three siblings entitled “Instant Family.” The Department is using the premiere as an opportunity to show ads before the movie begins in six Connecticut theaters to create more public awareness about the emotional rewards of adoption.

--more--

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
[www.ct.gov/dcf](http://www.ct.gov/dcf)  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

## Background on Adoption from Foster Care

- In State Fiscal Year 2018, the Department completed 83 more adoptions and transferred 29 more guardianships compared to the prior year.
- CT supports families who adopt children from foster care through a variety of ways, including monthly stipends to pay for the cost of caring for the child, health insurance for the child, and special supports such as counseling and respite. In addition, the costs of post-secondary education, including a four-year college, is covered up to the cost of the Connecticut state university system.
- The need for homes for children in certain special groups is greater than for others. Sibling groups, teenagers, and children with special medical or other special needs are more challenging to find homes for.
- There are 4,329 children in foster care as of August 1, 2018 – which is a reduction of 9.4 percent compared to January 2011 when this administration began. About half of those will go back to their families. In addition, 42.2 percent are currently living with relatives or kin, which is double the percentage compared to January 2011.
- All kinds of families can adopt. There are no restrictions based on household characteristics related to marriage or sexual identity or preference. You don't need to own your home. Renters are equally valued, and your household income only needs to be adequate to support household members without counting the adoption subsidy.
- Requirements for being licensed to adopt, which can take four to six months to complete, include:
  - Pre-licensing training equal to 30 hours – which can take about 10 weeks;
  - Home visits by our licensing staff and a home study, which comes at no cost; and
  - Background checks for criminal or child abuse history that could prevent licensure.

**PLEASE CALL 1-888-KID-HERO OR GO TO CTFOSTERADOPT.COM,  
AND YOU WILL BE CONNECTED TO A KNOWLEDGEABLE PROFESSIONAL  
TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH EACH STEP ALONG THE WAY.**