17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
COURT OF FLORIDA
BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE
201 SE SIXTH STREET
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301

OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT
ADMINISTRATOR
SALLIE JAMES,
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
(954) 831-7559
SJAMES@17TH.FLCOURTS.ORG

For Immediate Release

Nov. 17, 2026

Court Celebrates National Adoption Day this Saturday with 21 Adoptions

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL – Twenty-one children ranging in age from toddlers to teens will be formally adopted on Saturday, Nov. 21, during a fun-filled celebration of National Adoption Day at the Broward County Courthouse. The event will feature games, gifts and lots of joy. You are invited!

National Adoption Day activities begin at 9:30 a.m. with a formal ceremony in the Jury Assembly Room, followed by adoption hearings in the individual courtrooms of various judges. Chief Judge Carol-Lisa Phillips will deliver a welcome address on behalf of the 17th Judicial Circuit.

"It's always a big deal when a child gets his or her forever family. This is probably the most important day of their life," said Judge John B. Bowman, a former dependency judge who has been organizing the annual event for years.

The goal of National Adoption Day is to shine a light on this issue and stir interest in the children who are waiting to be placed in forever homes, while also celebrating those that have been adopted. The hope is that media outreach, publicity and participation by community organizations will help spread the stories of children who are waiting for permanency and the life-changing chance for a new start.

Media covering this event should enter the courthouse via the rotunda, and report to the Jury Assembly Room (#3320). Information as to the courtrooms where individual adoptions will take place will be shared at that time.

ABOUT THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida is the court for Broward County, headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, FL. It is the second largest circuit court in the state. Broward County has 90 judges. Of those, 32 are county court judges and 58 are circuit judges. Four courthouses comprise the 17th circuit and include the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, and three satellite courthouses: the North Regional Courthouse in Deerfield Beach, the West Regional Courthouse in Plantation and the South Regional Courthouse in Hollywood.