

Indiana Department of Child Services Room E306 – MS47 302 W. Washington Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2738

> 317-234-KIDS FAX: 317-234-4497

> > www.in.gov/dcs

Child Support Hotline: 800-840-8757 Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800-800-5556

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Noelle Russell Department of Child Services Cell: 317-756-1827 Email: noelle.russell@dcs.in.gov

Indiana DCS highlights adoptions during awareness month

Agency collaborates with Hoosier courts to make proceedings public

INDIANAPOLIS (Nov. 1, 2019) – The Indiana Adoption Program and the Department of Child Services are partnering with the Indiana Supreme Court to share stories of children who have found loving and permanent homes across the state.

Each November, in honor of National Adoption Month, state agencies work to spread the word about children waiting to find their forever families. In support of this effort, the Indiana Supreme Court has authorized judges across the state to open their courtroom doors to cameras to allow the public to witness and celebrate adoptions being finalized. Most of these special events will take place on or around national adoption day on Nov. 23, 2019.

"This month is an incredibly important time to appreciate and recognize those who support Hoosier children by providing a loving and permanent family," DCS director Terry Stigdon said. "Everyone should take this time to consider the gift of adoption to provide stability for the children who are longing for a home to call their own."

In Indiana, there are currently more than 1,500 children eligible for adoption. Seeing dozens of them go home to loving families is heart-warming for all involved, officials agreed.

"Indiana's adoption day celebrations have grown tremendously over the past few years, and we are proud to fully support the happiest day in court," Chief Justice Loretta Rush explained. "The Supreme Court allows cameras in court for these proceedings in order to share the special moment with the community."

For more information on family-friendly adoption events in your area, click <u>here</u>. For more information about adoption and some of Indiana's waiting children, click <u>here</u>.



Indiana children will live in safe, healthy and supportive families and communities.

About Indiana DCS: The Indiana Department of Child Services engages with families and collaborates with state, local and community partners to protect children from abuse and neglect and to provide child support services. Indiana Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 800.800.5556. Child Support Customer Service Kidsline: 800.840.8757 or 317.233.5437. www.in.gov/dcs



Protecting our children, families and future

###