



NEWS ADVISORY

**New York State
Unified Court System**

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Administrative Judge
Fifth Judicial District**

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Central NY's 5th Judicial District, Onondaga County Executive to Host 25th Annual Adoption Day at Syracuse's Oncenter

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK—The Fifth Judicial District's 25th Adoption Day celebration will be held on **November 21, 2025 at 9:30am** at the **Oncenter in Syracuse, New York**.

Doors open at 8:30am, with the ceremony beginning promptly at 9:30am. This annual event, sponsored by the District in partnership with Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon, is free and open to the public.

This year's celebration will mark the finalization of more than 38 adoptions – the fulfillment of dreams for children and adults looking forward to building a life of love, happiness, and permanency as an adoptive family. Guest speakers include **Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives Edwina G. Richardson** and members of the Johnson Family, who have adopted and fostered many children.

The late Dave Johnson, a Syracuse City Fire Department deputy fire chief, and wife Diana Johnson, a birthparent caseworker with New Hope Family Services for over 30 years, always knew they shared a love of children and often talked about adoption before they married. Today, the Johnson Family comprises three "homegrown" children, 14 adopted children, and 12 foster children. The family has also provided short-term respite care to many more children.

All children need safe and loving homes to call their own. Currently there are more than 390,000 children in foster care in the United States, with more than 100,000 of these foster children eagerly awaiting adoption.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, please attend the Fifth Judicial District's Adoption Day Celebration or call the Onondaga County Department of Children and Family Services at (315) 435-3824.

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