

PRESS RELEASE

October 26, 2017

Office of the Chief Judge
Madison County Courthouse
Edwardsville, IL 62025

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MADISON COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

On Saturday, November 18, 2017 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM the Madison County Circuit Court will participate in National Adoption Day. This is the day where an unprecedented number of courts and communities in all 50 states come together to finalize thousands of adoptions of children from foster care. There are many children in foster care who wait three or more years before being adopted. Three years is a very long time in a child's life. Another sad fact is one in five children will "age out" of foster care without ever being adopted.

"Uniting a child with a family who loves them is one of the best opportunities I have as a Judge to help our community" Judge Sarah Smith says about the program. Judge Smith is the chair of this year's National Adoption Day ceremony. "National Adoption Day is a day to celebrate with the children who have found their forever home, and to raise awareness for children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. This is our second year celebrating his special occasion and we are excited to see that this event has grown even bigger this year."

Please join us to raise awareness in our community for the sake of these children. Judge Sarah D. Smith, Judge Janet Heflin, Judge Maureen Schuette, Judge Martin Mengarelli and Judge David Dugan will be presiding over 25 or more adoptions this day.

Special invitations have been sent to post adoptive parents, prospective adoptive parents as well as caseworkers and their supervisors.

Chief Judge David Hylla will open the proceedings in Courtroom 327 at the Madison County Courthouse, 155 N. Main Street, Edwardsville at 10:00 AM. The Courthouse will open at 9:30 AM.

Tom Cinque, from DCFS will be performing a magic show for the children, superheroes; face painting and refreshments will be provided.

All those interested in the adoption process are encouraged to attend.