

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



BRANDON E. RILEY
Court Executive Officer

400 McAllister St.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Contact: Ann E. Donlan
media@sftc.org

RELEASE DATE: June 24, 2025

FAMILY REUNIFICATION DAY CELEBRATES PARENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY REUNITED WITH THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH SAN FRANCISCO'S JUVENILE DEPENDENCY SYSTEM

Eight families were honored at a celebration in the Civic Center Courthouse to acknowledge the success of parents who reunited with their children through San Francisco's juvenile dependency court, Presiding Judge Rochelle C. East announced today. Seven of the families completed the Family Treatment Court (FTC), allowing them to bring their children home from foster care.

"We are proud of these parents who have worked so hard to overcome substance use and other issues that required foster care placements while they participated in our FTC to achieve reunification with their children," Presiding Judge East said.

"FTC's collaborative model surrounds the family with support from the court and its justice and community partners to help parents make changes to eventually reunify with their children in healthy, stable and loving homes."

Unified Family Court Supervising Judge Roger C. Chan thanked the Court's justice partners for their support and care of foster children in the City and County of San Francisco's dependency system.

"Family Reunification Day is a time to recognize and celebrate the successful

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preservation of families involved with the child welfare system,” Supervising Judge Chan said. “We acknowledge the tremendous efforts and accomplishments of parents, child welfare professionals, and the community in overcoming challenges to keep or bring families together. Their journeys have been full of triumph and tears, and every accomplishment was hard-earned. This is a joyful day for our families as well as our partners – San Francisco’s Human Services Agency, Department of Public Health, the Bar Association of San Francisco, SFCASA, Homeless Prenatal Program, and other community partners – and we thank all for their dedication to these families.”

Earlier today, the children and their families were honored in an awards ceremony in the 4th Floor Rotunda of the Civic Center Courthouse. The event coincided with the National Family Reunification Month, celebrated in June.

“Reuniting children and youth with their families is what we hope for, and we are here to help,” said Joan Miller, Deputy Director of SFHSA’s Family & Children’s Services. “We are so proud to see these families reunite through the help of their community, support systems, and resources.”

Child welfare data indicates that 119 San Francisco families were reunified in 2024.

The parents who have successfully completed the reunification process were highlighted today by the organization that nominated them. The awards ceremony included a gift card provided by grant funds and flowers donated by BASF through donations. Community partners instrumental in each of the family’s reunification success also were acknowledged for their efforts. UFC Supervising Judge Chan presented the awards and acknowledged the parents for their success.

FTC provides comprehensive, highly coordinated services to families impacted by parental substance use to help them establish stability and prevent children’s re-entry into foster care. FTC engages parents in acquiring the necessary skills for a life free from drugs and alcohol, and family stability by providing coordinated recovery services, intensive case management, and frequent court monitoring.

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