

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



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RELEASE DATE: November 5, 2025

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY IN SAN FRANCISCO: 9 CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES CELEBRATE THEIR JOYFUL MILESTONE IN THE CIVIC CENTER COURTHOUSE

Nine children and their families attended a celebration and adoption hearings in the Unified Family Court (UFC), which marked the 26th anniversary of Court Adoption and Permanency Month in California, Presiding Judge Rochelle C. East announced today.

"National Adoption Day is celebrated in San Francisco every year with a joyful gathering in our Civic Center Courthouse to honor this special day for these families," Presiding Judge East said. "After a fun celebration with food and festivities, our Unified Family Court judges were honored to take the bench to officially join these forever families. It is a heartfelt day for all involved – one that would not be possible without the guidance and support of social workers from San Francisco's Human Services Agency (HSA), CASA volunteers, community service providers, and of course, these families."

Supervising Unified Family Court Judge Roger C. Chan said: "National Adoption Day highlights the need for adoptive families for children in foster care. Adoption means that children who could not be returned to their families do not need to grow up in the uncertainty of foster care. Adoption provides these children with permanence, identity, and belonging. We share in the joy of the families that have grown through adoption. These families have journeyed together through ups and downs and their love is born in the heart. Today's hearings officially recognize their relationships and families."

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Earlier today, the children and their families celebrated with a festive luncheon in the 4th Floor Rotunda decorated with balloons and flowers. Children played with donated toys, posed for family photos, were entertained by a balloon artist, and helped themselves to lunch and treats before the afternoon adoption hearings in the nearby courtrooms.

"National Adoption Day is a nationwide celebration that shines a light on the more than 108,000 children in foster care awaiting permanent families," said Trent Rhorer, Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Services Agency. "Since its launch in 1999, this annual November event has united courts and communities across the country to celebrate the joy of adoption and the promise of permanency for children in foster care. The City and County of San Francisco is proud to continue this tradition. Today, nine local children will be welcomed into loving families during a heartfelt ceremony filled with celebration and the permanent love and care of their adoptive family."

Sue Lockyer, Senior Program Manager for CASA said: "SFCASA matches trained community volunteers with children in the foster care system, to build a supportive relationship and advocate for them in court and in the community. When reunification with their family of origin is not possible, SFCASA's volunteer advocates partner with the Court to support and celebrate adoption into loving families."

In the past 19 years, the Court has signed 1,869 adoption orders in San Francisco, with a low of 45 orders in 2020 during COVID-19, and a high of 153 in 2007. So far in 2025, there have been 92 finalizations of adoption, including today's orders.

Unified Family Court (UFC) comprises Juvenile Dependency, Juvenile Justice, Child Support, and Family Law. UFC's mission is to provide coordinated services to those who have family-related issues in the court system, strengthen services to the community, and assist and promote healthy families and children.

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