

# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA



## ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY MONTH R E S O L U T I O N

*Whereas*, consistent with its commitment to support practices and procedures that promote access to justice and improved case outcomes for California's children and families, the Judicial Council has annually recognized November as Court Adoption and Permanency Month since 1999;

*Whereas* the Judicial Council, courts, and justice partners have created programs that prioritize relative placement for children in foster care, and all recognize the ongoing need to help improve the lives of children and families;

*Whereas*, of the over 53,000 children and youth ages 21 and younger in child welfare-supervised out-of-home care in 2022, more than a third were placed with relatives, but of the nearly 1,500 probation-supervised children and youth in out-of-home care, only 5 percent were placed with relatives;

*Whereas* federal and state laws require courts to ensure that social services exercise due diligence in locating and engaging relatives and extended family members as the preferential placement for children removed from the family home;

*Whereas* the state authorizes relatives to take in foster children on an emergency basis and receive temporary grant funding and background checks, provided the court finds the relatives' care safe for the child;

*Whereas* 70 percent of children in relative placements are with all their siblings, compared to roughly 50 percent for those in nonrelative placements;

*Whereas* youth with relative placements at the time they exit care are less likely to reenter after a year;

*Whereas* roughly 70 percent of children still in care at 12 months remain in their first placement if initially placed with relatives, compared to less than 25 percent who were initially placed with nonrelatives;

*Whereas*, although courts and justice partners have created programs that promote family placement and permanency, work is still needed to address disparities;

*Whereas* Black, Native American, and Latino/Hispanic children continue to be overrepresented among children in care, with Black children more than five times and Native American children more than four times as likely to be in foster care as white children;

*Whereas* the judge of the juvenile court, in the judge's unique leadership role, provides active leadership within the community in determining the needs of children and of obtaining and developing resources to reduce the trauma of removal of children from their parents and relatives;

*Whereas* the Judicial Council and the courts have made a comprehensive effort to improve juvenile court proceedings, including accessing federal and state grants for judicial officer training, guides for dependency proceedings, and convenings for courts and stakeholders; developing rules of court and court forms; and administering new funding sources for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel; and

*Whereas* the Judicial Council remains committed to working with the Governor, the Legislature, and local courts and communities to provide children and families with access to fair, understandable judicial proceedings leading to timely, well-informed, and just permanency outcomes;

*Now, therefore, be it resolved* that I, Patricia Guerrero, Chief Justice of California, on behalf of the Judicial Council of California, do hereby proclaim November 2023 to be Court Adoption and Permanency Month, during which the courts and their communities are encouraged to examine local policies and practices to ensure full participation of relatives in court proceedings and to join in activities to promote adoption and permanency by increasing relative placement.

*In witness whereof,*

*I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of October, 2023*

Attest

Handwritten signature of Patricia Guerrero in black ink.

PATRICIA GUERRERO  
Chief Justice of California and  
Chair of the Judicial Council of California

Handwritten signature of Millicent A. Tidwell in black ink.

MILLICENT TIDWELL  
Acting Administrative Director  
Judicial Council of California