

Superior Court of California  
County of Santa Clara



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## Santa Clara County Observes Family Reunification Day May 22, 2019

*Santa Clara County recognizes the hard work of families and the many professionals who support them in getting their children home safely.*

SAN JOSÉ, California (Tuesday, May 14, 2019): On May 22, 2019, Santa Clara County celebrates its 9th Annual Family Reunification Day as one of many jurisdictions across the country commemorating the event. Reunification Day, both nationally and locally, occurs annually between Mother's Day and Father's Day. The goal of National Reunification Day is to celebrate families and communities coming together and to raise awareness about the importance of family reunification for children in foster care. In our county, this event is a collaboration among the Superior Court and all of the Superior Court Judiciary, Dependency Advocacy Center, the Department of Family and Children's Services, Legal Advocates for Children and Youth, Office of the County Counsel, First 5, and Court Appointed Special Advocates. Special recognition belongs with the Dependency Court Judges for all of their hard work and efforts seeking to reunify families throughout the year. All these organizations recognize the importance of reunification to children in foster care and on this occasion, reinvigorate our commitment to this vital work.

As part of our celebration, we honor five families who have safely and successfully reunified, recognizing the tremendous effort and dedication they have displayed. In addition, we honor a professional who champions the efforts of families in reunification. This year, Amy Choi, formerly with Dependency Advocacy Center, will be honored for her passionate representation of parents as they navigate the Dependency system. Dependency judges; attorneys for parents, children, and the Department of Family and Children's Services; social workers; service providers; and court appointed special advocates (CASAs) all join in this celebration of families and community partners.

AnnaLisa Chung, Chief Executive Officer of Dependency Advocacy Center, which provides legal representation to the parents, observes: "Our mission as a field must be to strengthen families' ability to care for their children and build community capacity to help them thrive where they live. Family Reunification Day reminds us that when our system performs as intended, children are returned to their parents in safe, stable, and supported homes."

Amanda Kennedy, an attorney with Legal Advocates for Children and Youth, adds, "It is easy to get caught up in the day-to-day activities of advocating for children in foster care. Taking a day to step back and appreciate the hard work of families and those who lend community support reinforces the importance of the work we are all doing. Children do better and our community does better when families are together and thriving."

**The Santa Clara County celebration will be held on May 22, 2019  
The Social Services Agency Auditorium at 333 W. Julian St. in San Jose, from 1:00pm - 3:00pm.**

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