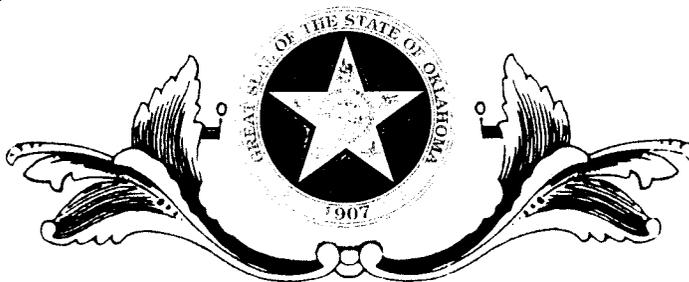


OCT 02 2020

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, there are more than 500 children and youth in Oklahoma who are seeking the love and support of a devoted forever family and a place where they can feel secure and thrive; and

Whereas, of these children and youth, more than 300 are teenagers who need the love and stability of caring families to set the stage for success in adulthood. As with any age, the teenage years bring unique challenges to a family - but these years can also be very rewarding and bring great joy and adventure to a family who is willing to give teens a chance; and

Whereas, Oklahoma continues to have an urgent need for foster families to open their homes and hearts to Oklahoma's children, particularly those with higher behavioral health needs or other special needs, large sibling groups and older youth; and

Whereas, foster families often become adoptive families too, with more than 90% of children adopted in 2019 were adopted by their current foster parents; and

Whereas, this year's theme for National Adoption Month is "Engage Youth: Listen and Learn" because it is critical to engage youth to participate in their own case planning which is an empowering practice that can improve outcomes and lead to greater opportunities for success in their lives; and

Whereas, we must continually renew our commitment to ensuring a brighter future for our youth in foster care and celebrate the selfless individuals who make a meaningful difference in their lives; and

Whereas, we recognize the efforts of foster and adoptive families, child welfare professionals, faith-based and community partners, Native American tribes, and others who are improving the lives of the youth in foster care across our state;

Now Therefore, I, Governor J. Kevin Stitt, do hereby proclaim November, 2020, as

"Adoption Month"

in the State of Oklahoma.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this second day of October, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred and twelfth year.

Michael Rogers
SECRETARY OF STATE

Kevin Stitt
GOVERNOR

41216

ATTEST: