

# Juvenile Law: 2025 Court Adoption and Permanency Month

Hon. Tari L. Cody, Cochair, Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee  
Adoptive Family

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Presentation to the Judicial Council  
October 24, 2025



## Importance of Kinship Care

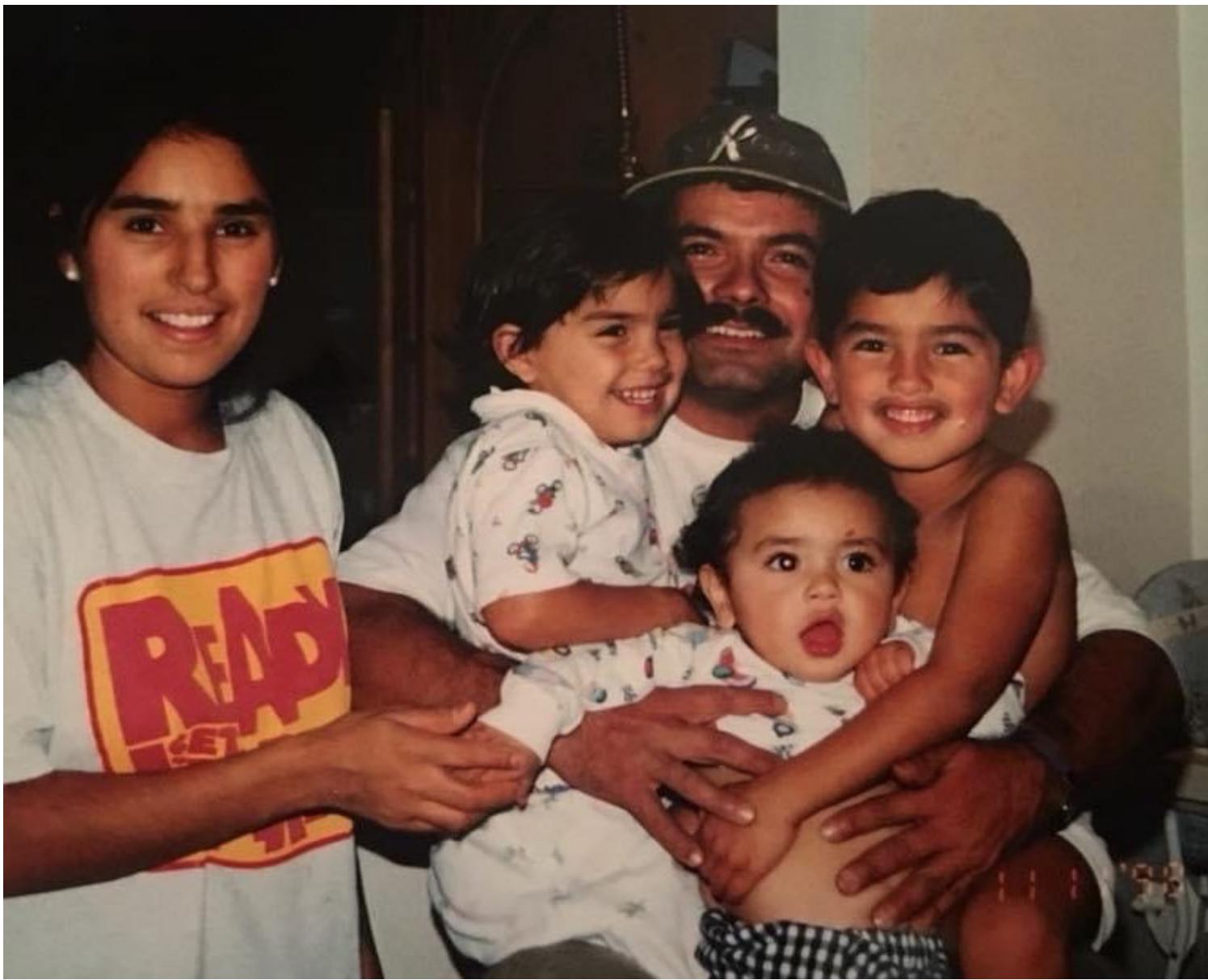
- Remain in first placement
- Stay with siblings
- Less likely to reenter care

## Kin-First Culture Action Plan

- Rules and forms effective January 1, 2026 (consent agenda item 25-172)
- Local trainings with the California Department of Social Services
- Beyond the Bench

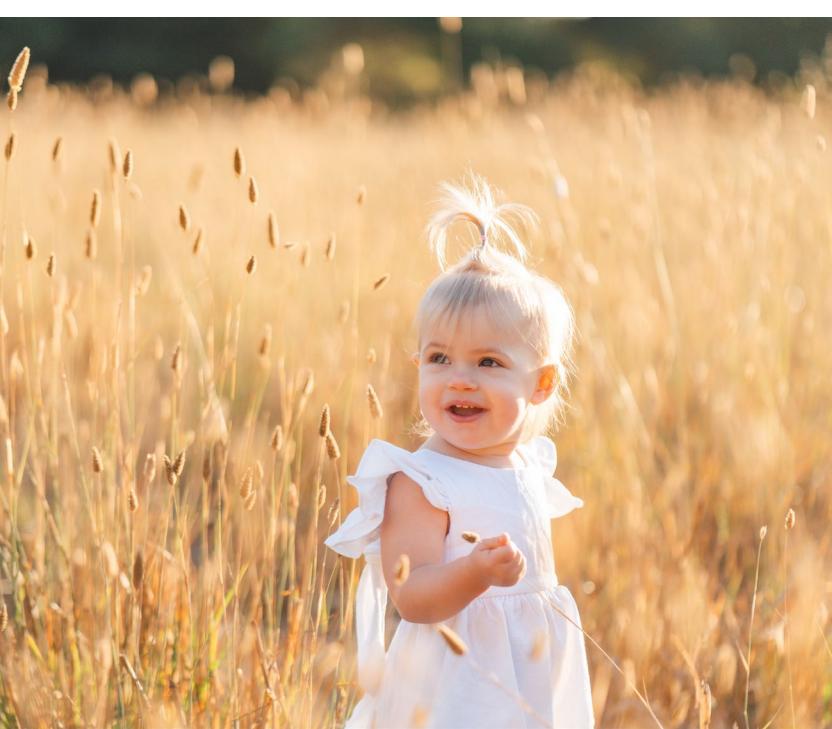
# Claudia, Mike, and Cece











# Mike's First Court Date and Ice Cream Cone



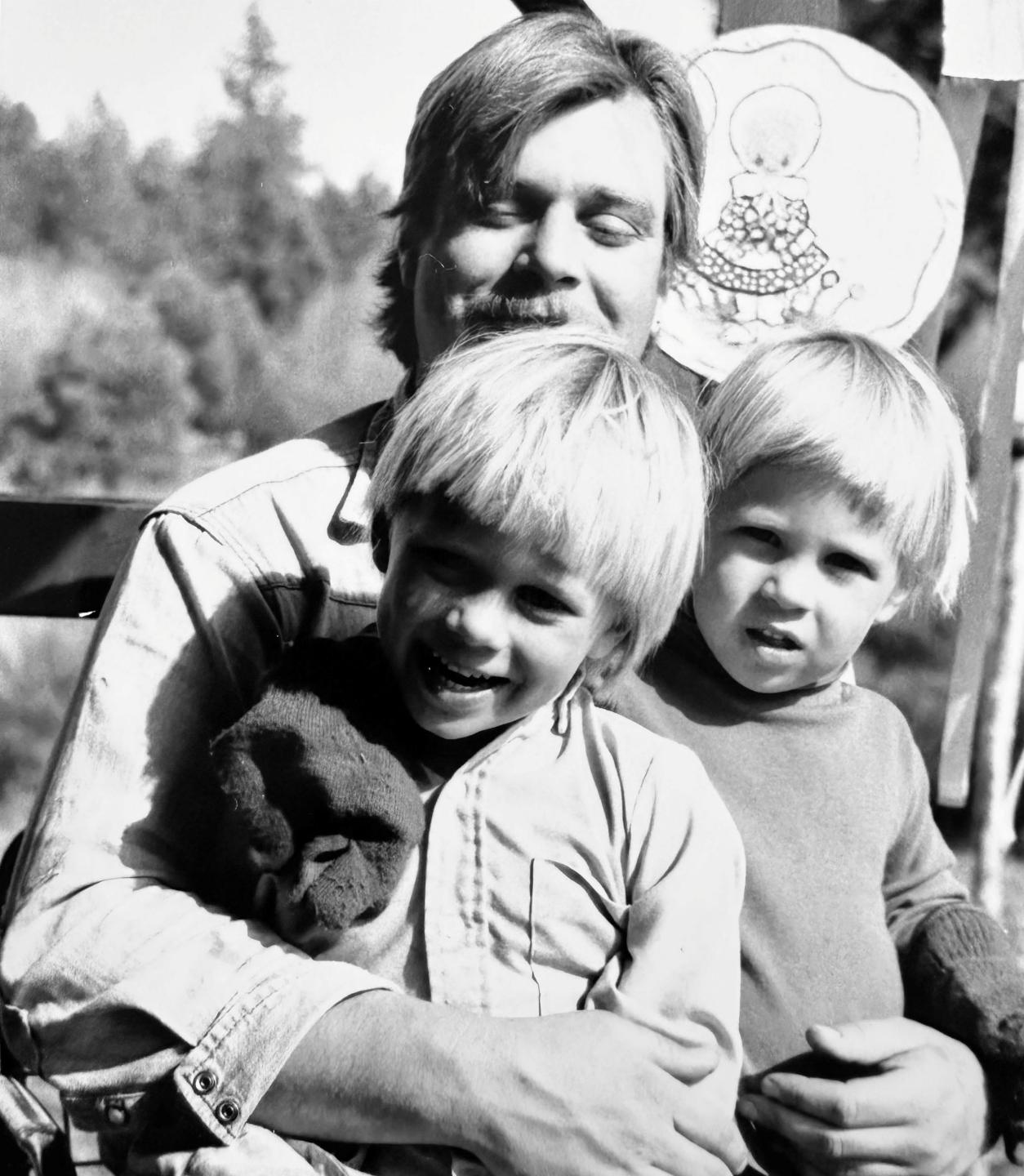


# Life with Aunt Molly and Uncle Erick



# Reunification and Return to Care





## **The Difference Kinship Care Can Make**

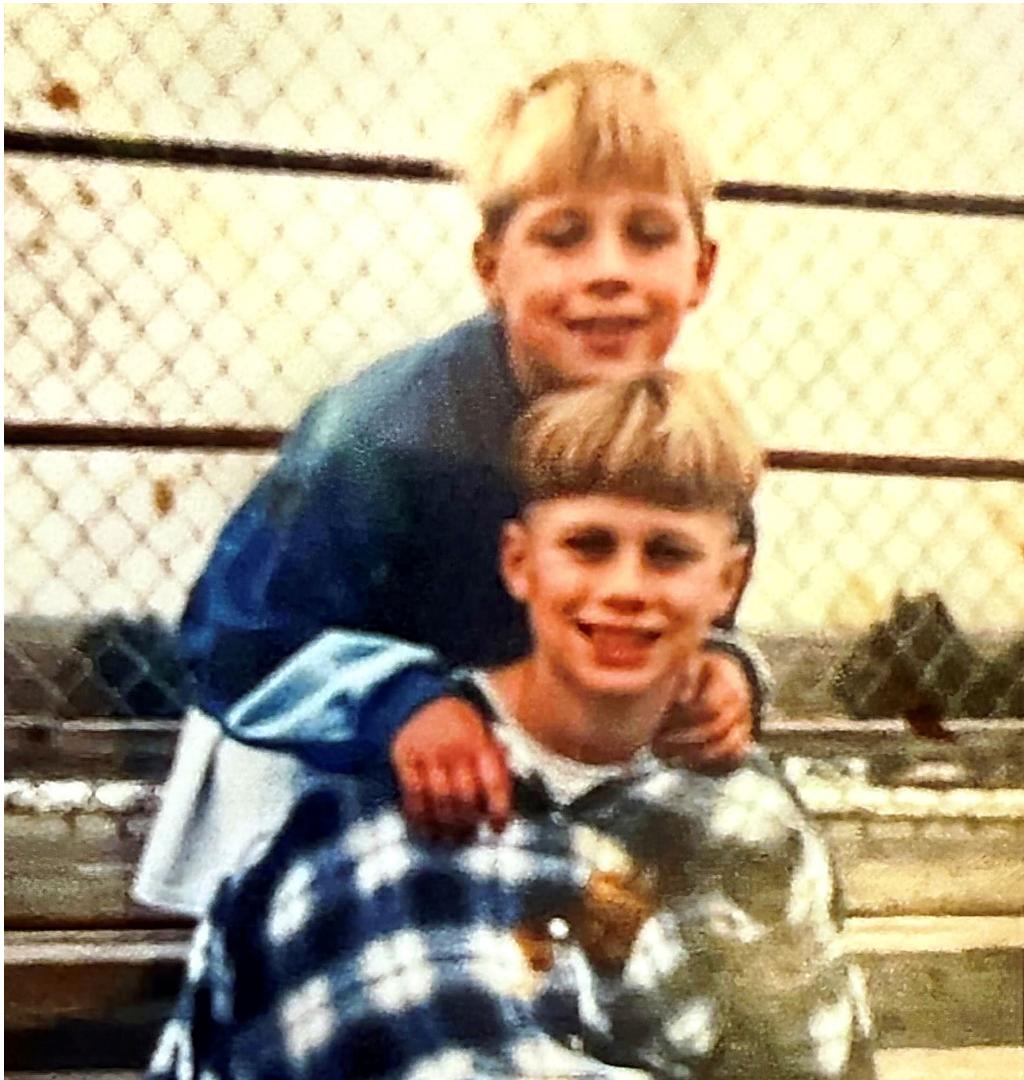
# Finding Direction as an Adult

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# Becoming a Father Through Adoption





**A Better System  
for Children  
Today**





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

*Whereas* juvenile court judges are uniquely responsible for the care, supervision, custody, and support of the children under the court's jurisdiction and provide active leadership within the community to ensure that resources are available to serve families and children;

*Whereas* in order to reinforce the benefits of in-home care, the Judicial Council, courts, and justice partners have focused on a Kin-First Culture system where the parent and family help determine the safest place for the child within the family, community, or tribe;

*Whereas* though 55,000 children were in child welfare-supervised, out-of-home care on January 1, 2021, that number has been reduced by 29 percent to 39,000 children on January 1, 2025, as a result of these efforts;

*Whereas* in 2023, approximately 74 percent of children in foster care at 12 months were in their first or second placement, a 10 percent increase in placement stability since 2018;

*Whereas* kinship care provides a protective effect on youth mental health outcomes and is associated with higher placement stability and permanency as compared to traditional foster care placement;

*Whereas* children in kinship care experience fewer behavioral health problems, less placement disruption, and fewer mental health services than youth in a nonrelative placement;

*Whereas* children with a first placement with relatives or extended family members are three times as likely to remain in the first placement after 12 months, and youth who were with a relative at the time they exit from foster care are less likely to reenter care within 12 months;

*Whereas* in 2024, approximately 57 percent of children and youth who exited the foster care system were placed with or adopted by a relative, a 6 percent increase since 2019;

*Whereas* California is a proponent of kinship care, providing financial and social supports to relative caregivers as a way to strengthen family connections and improve the well-being of foster youth;

*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 2025 to be Court Adoption and Permanency Month, during which the courts and their communities are encouraged to examine local policies and practices to promote reunification, adoption, and permanency, by prioritizing kinship care and supporting resilient families.