



JOHN B. SUMNER
PRESIDING JUDGE
SUITE 310
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Cherokee County Juvenile Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit

M. ANTHONY BAKER
JUDGE
SUITE 310
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February 3, 2016

On behalf of the Juvenile Court of Cherokee County, I would like to extend an invitation for you to be a part of the **Support Foster Care Initiative** to be held on March 12, 2016. We will, in conjunction with the Department of Family and Children Services, C.A.S.A., and other local stakeholders, present and discuss the needs of our local foster care system.

We are facing a severe shortage of local foster homes in our community. Children who are removed from their home for their own safety are routinely placed in foster homes outside of our community. Many of these placements are great distances and hours away. The child is taken away from all his or her familiar surroundings: school, friends, and extended family. Our goal is to provide this community awareness meeting to help D.F.C.S. develop more local foster homes.

We will also discuss how to better support the local foster homes that we have now. We do not want to overburden those who have opened their heart and home to children in need.

Finally, we will also discuss the work of Juvenile Court and other volunteer opportunities.

We hope that you are able to attend.

Sincerely,

Judge John B. Sumner
Cherokee County Juvenile Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit