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Contact: Deborah Kelly, 302-633-2501  
Joseph Smack, 302-633-2605

### **Congress Recognizes Children's Department Adoption Manager**

WILMINGTON \_ The Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families' Adoption Program Manager Frank Perfinski was honored recently with the 2004 Angels in Adoption award by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Perfinski was nominated by Senators Joseph Biden and Thomas Carper and Representative Michael Castle for his ongoing efforts to seek adoptive homes for children in foster care. Other Delawareans recognized were Julia Pearce, executive director of the Child Placement Review Board and Mary Lou Walker, adoptive parent.

"National recognition of Frank Perfinski with this award proves that indeed we are truly thinking of the child first here in Delaware," said Governor Ruth Ann Minner. "Frank's dedication and devotion has helped place hundreds of children in safe and loving homes. He cares deeply and works hard to make sure our children will be safe, live in stable homes, learn and grow in self esteem and embrace a sense of hope about their futures."

The three award recipients were formally recognized as "dedicated and passionate child advocates who represent the best Delaware has to offer in both the public domain and in private family life" at a reception and dinner on Sept. 23 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. The dinner featured special guests including actress Jane Seymour, PGA golfer Kirk Triplett and General Manager and Senior Vice President of the Orlando Magic Pat Williams. Mistress of Ceremonies was radio personality Delilah.

On any given day, the Children's Department provides services to approximately 8,200 children who have been abused, neglected, are dependent, have mental health or substance problems, and/or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts. About 200 children are currently awaiting adoptive homes. For more information, please visit <http://www.state.de.us/kids/> or <http://www.adoptuskids.org>.

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