



MIAMI DADE COUNTY FOSTER & ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION

(“MDCFAPA”)

(Our Motto: “You Are Not Alone”)

**** **JANUARY** ****

2026 Newsletter



2026 Board Members

100 Opa Locka Blvd. Mia, FL
33054
www.mdcfapa.org *
mdcfapa@gmail.com
shabenj@aol.com *
travis.davis33@yahoo.com

*Travis Davis,
President*

*Barbara Johnson,
Vice President*

*Joann Jones,
Corresponding Secretary*

*Ethel Rivers,
Treasurer*

*Cynthia Hughes,
Parliamentarian*

*Elizabeth Brooks,
Chaplain*

*Lily Rodriguez,
Board Member At Large*

*Lashoan Singleton,
Board Member At Large*

*Shamele Jenkins,
Executive Director
& Immediate Past President
(305) 469-1157*

MDCFAPA is open to ALL co-parents (foster, adoptive, & kinship, non-relative caregivers and biological parents) in Miami Dade County as well as those interested in being advocates of our mission

**POST ADOPTION
& ADOPTION
FAIR**
SAT. Jan. 31, 2026
9:00am – 3:00pm

**The Dr. Dorothy
Bendross-Mindingall Social
& Economic Institute
5120 NW 24th Avenue
Miami, FL**

Get help and info
**** ALL FREE ****
Lite refreshments served

DID YOU ADOPT?
Get the latest info on what you & your child are eligible for...

- New tax credit up to \$5,000
- Need mental health or behavioral health options
- Need medical options
- College options & support
- Need more support for YOU.

INTERESTED IN ADOPTING?

- It's free
- Learn how to start
- find the workshops



RSVP: 305-474-0078



**** HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026 ****

**NO TRAINING MTGS
in January**
we resume in February 2026

**MDCFAPA
LIVE & IN PERSON
TRAINING MEETINGS**

*** NORTH DADE ***
Sat. February 7
1st Saturdays

10:00am – Noon

**The Institute
5120 NW 24th Avenue
Miami, FL**

*** SOUTH DADE ***
Sat. February 21
3rd Saturdays

3:00pm – 5:00pm

**Church of the Nazarene
11805 SW 232nd Street
Goulds, FL**

Both meetings offer:

- 2 hrs. of credit in-service training
- Free Door prizes galore
- Free Refreshments
- Free childcare & teen mtgs during general meeting
- Free groceries distribution too!

**FLORIDA STATE
FOSTER & ADOPTIVE
PARENT ASSOCIATION**
**Winter Conference in
Ocala, FL (in person only)**
www.floridafapa.org


SAVE the DATE
We are so excited to announce the Florida FAPA Winter Mini Conference will be held in Ocala this year!
January 31, 2026
 The Fostering Foundation will be hosting the Capes & Crowns Dinner following the conference.
More information and registration links will be sent out soon!


MDCFAPA PERKS

Church's Chicken
10% off each order

Jiffy Lube
\$15.00 off

Great Wolf Lodges
30% discounts

plumbbenefits

**MDCFAPA's
Member Program!**

Exclusive savings on travel, entertainment, theme parks, fall festivals, shopping, and everyday essentials. Plum Benefits helps your money go further. We are the employer and you are the employee so get those benefits now!

- www.plumbbenefits.com/ an use company code
- **MDCFAPAPERKS** to unlock your exclusive savings today.



FLA CHILDREN'S FIRST EMANCIPATION OF CHILDREN: IS FREEDOM EASY?

**Wed. January 21st
12:00pm to 1:30pm**

2.0 credit hours
"Juvenile Law"

Many of us have been told by our clients "I want to be emancipated." But often the reality does not meet expectations, whether those of our teenage clients, the adults who want to escape responsibility legally, or just society at large. By attending and participating in this 1.5 credit hour Florida CLE, you will learn what emancipation is, when the facts support it, whether other strategies can accomplish the same goals, and the "nuts and bolts" of the legal proceeding.

Webinar Registration - Zoom

<https://mail.aol.com/d/list/referrer=newMail&folders=1&accountIds=1&listFilter=NEWMAIL/messages/AADy3pKQduzFmOs7rstZRSBYrvh>



"SCHOOL DATES" MIAMI DADE PUBLIC SCHOOL 2026

January 5 ... Return to school
January 15 ... Teacher planning day
February 15 ... All Presidents Day
March 10 ... Teacher planning day
March 22-26 ... Spring recess
March 29 ... Teacher planning day
May 31 ... Memorial Day
June 3 ... Last day of school



HOTLINES

Foster Placement Line
(305) 810-1004

Citrus FCN Incident Report
Hotline 305-445-1055

Placement On-Call/After Hours
305-810-1004

**ADOPTION UNIT:
ADOPTION SUBSIDY ISSUES,
POST- HEALTH CARE AND
MORE?**

BBofill@citrusfcn.com
postadopt@citrusfcn.com
Katrella -786-521-6194
Sergio 786-501-5317
Madalina 786-817-7240

Wesley House (WHFS)
305-809-4999 (on call)

**Family Resource Center
(FRC)**
786-801-8858 (on call)
305-374-6006

**West Care (The Village
South)**
1- 833-544-6825 (on call)
YOU ARE NOT ALONE!



US TAXES

Receive expert tax prep services and ITIN processing at no cost, year-round for individuals and families from Miami Tax Pros.

Miami Tax Pros are professional, IRS-certified tax preparers through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Miami Tax Pros is led by Branches in partnership with group of over 30 strong community-based partners, including the United Way that offer FREE tax preparation for Miami-Dade county residents who are eligible. Miami Tax Pros can prepare your taxes with electronic filing. You can receive services in-person and virtually. The group offers services in English, Spanish, Creole and Chinese to best serve our county's diverse residents.

WHY pay to file your taxes when you can file for free with a professional IRS-certified tax preparer?

To be eligible to get your taxes prepared by Miami Tax Pros for free, one of the following must be true:

- You speak limited or no English
- You are a person with a disability
- You are age 60 or older
- You make \$64,000 a year or less
- You are above the income threshold but have experienced a financial hardship
-

To locate a VITA site and connect with an IRS-certified tax expert, call 211.

United Way Center for Financial Stability
Main Location
3195 SW 3rd Avenue
Miami, FL 33129

Branches, Inc - North
Location
11500 NW 12th Avenue
Miami, FL 33168
305-688-3551 Ext. 2008
Se habla español – Nou pale kreyòl

Branches, Inc - South
Location
129 SW 5th Avenue
Florida City, FL 33034
786-650-2006
Se habla español