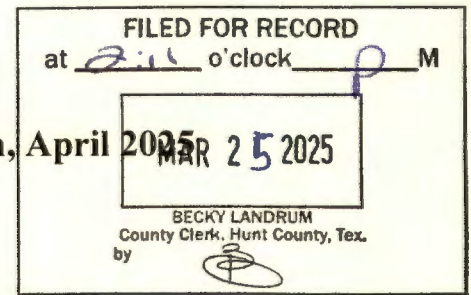


**Proclamation:**  
**Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, April**

19,368



**WHEREAS**, last year in the United States, there were 372,613 confirmed victims of child abuse.

**WHEREAS**, in Texas, there were 9,506 children whose abuse was confirmed; which is 26 confirmed instances of child abuse each day;

**WHEREAS**, in Texas and throughout the nation, there are many individuals and agencies who are working to prevent child abuse, to raise awareness about child abuse, and to help the child victims;

**WHEREAS**, in 2024, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services became involved with tens of thousands of children and their families due to allegations and confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect;

**WHEREAS**, in 2024, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services investigated 59,817 allegations of abuse and neglect of children; resulting in 40,416 children and their families being referred to Family Based Safety Services without the state taking custody of the children;

**WHEREAS**, in 2024, a total of 3,852 children in Texas were removed from their homes and placed into the care and custody of the state, otherwise known as foster care;

**WHEREAS**, last year in Texas, there were a combined total of 28,008 child abuse victims in the legal care of the state for their own protection.

**WHEREAS**, in 2024, Hunt County's Child Protective Investigations engaged in 674 allegations involving Hunt County children and their families; resulting in 245 of these children and their families being referred to Family Based Safety Services without the state taking custody of the children;

**WHEREAS**, in 2024, close to 60 Hunt County children were removed from their homes and entered into the care and custody of the state, otherwise known as foster care, served by the state's Community-Based Care contractor Empower.

**WHEREAS**, the total number of Hunt County children in the care and custody of the state was 133 children in 2024;

**WHEREAS**, in 2024 in Texas, there were a total of 7,457 Court Appointed Special Advocates® – or CASA volunteers – who are assigned by the court to speak up for a child’s best interests;

**WHEREAS**, last year, CASA volunteers involved with one of the 74 CASA programs in Texas advocated for 18,208 children in foster care system, giving 552,378 million volunteer hours to serve these child victims;

**WHEREAS**, in Hunt County, CASA is appointed by the courts to serve 100% of the children who enter the foster care system;

**WHEREAS**, last year, CASA for Hunt County advocated for 133 of our county’s children in crisis;

**WHEREAS**, in 2024, CASA for Hunt County volunteer advocates logged 13,804 hours of casework and traveled 61,029 miles in order to serve the children in which they are appointed, saving Hunt County taxpayers about \$427,924 with volunteer advocate services;

**WHEREAS**, Children’s Advocacy Center – CAC – is the front door for the child abuse investigation process to provide a collaborative response to children impacted by abuse;

**WHEREAS**, last year in Texas, 70 Children’s Advocacy Centers across the state served close to 65,000 children, with 45% between ages of 6 and 12 years old;

**WHEREAS**, in 2024, approximately every 15 hours there was a confirmed child sexual abuse case in Texas;

**WHEREAS**, 98 percent of the child victims knew their alleged perpetrator.

**WHEREAS**, every child through the CAC has a chance for their voice to be heard and the healing process to begin; and in Hunt County, CAC staff and volunteers served 700 children last year;

**WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Texas.

**WHEREAS**, children thrive in safe, stable, nurturing families, within their own local community;



**WHEREAS**, while it is critical to build a system that supports families when they are in crisis, it is extremely important to support families before they are in crisis in order to prevent the abuse and maltreatment of Texas children;

**WHEREAS**, child abuse prevention cannot be tasked to one community, agency, or system; all Texans must work together to strengthen our communities and build localized supports that are accessible, contribute to the well-being of the entire community, and keep children and families safe together.

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote preventive efforts;

**WHEREAS**, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families;

**WHEREAS**, CASA for Hunt County, Hunt County Children's Advocacy Center, Hunt County's Department of Family and Protective Services, Community-Based Care contractor Empower, child welfare collaborative agencies, foster parents, teachers, counselors, attorneys, judges, county leaders, civic organizations, churches, and every member of Hunt County shall work to safeguard that our county's children have the opportunity to thrive and to grow up in safe, loving permanent homes;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bobby W. Stovall, County Judge for Hunt County, Texas, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION and AWARENESS MONTH in Hunt County and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

Signed on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025

  
Name

County Judge  
Title

