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**Proclamation:  
Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, April 2026**

**WHEREAS**, a total of 4.4 million allegations of child maltreatment occurred in the United States, which according to latest statistics, is a 15-year-high.

**WHEREAS**, the latest statistics show there were 546,159 confirmed victims of child abuse in the United States.

**WHEREAS**, fatalities from child abuse or neglect have increased 63% since 1995.

**WHEREAS**, in Texas, in 2025, there were 33,249 children whose abuse was confirmed; which is 91 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 2025, 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 FY25, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services investigated 136,650 allegations of abuse and neglect of children; resulting in 15,527 children and their families being referred to Family Based Safety Services without the state taking custody of the children;

**WHEREAS**, in FY2025, a total of 4,287 children in Texas were removed from their homes and placed into the care and custody of the state, otherwise known as foster care;

**WHEREAS**, in FY25, there were a combined total of 27,343 child abuse victims in the legal care of the state for their own protection.

FILED FOR RECORD at <u>3:00</u> o'clock <u>P</u> M
MAR 24 2026
BECKY LANDRUM County Clerk, Hunt County, Tex. by 

**WHEREAS**, in FY25, Hunt County's Child Protective Investigations engaged in 668 allegations involving Hunt County children and their families; resulting in 56 of these children and their families being referred to Family Based Safety Services without the state taking custody of the children;

**WHEREAS**, in 2025, 70 Hunt County children were removed from their homes and entered into the foster care system.

**WHEREAS**, in 2025 the total number of Hunt County children in foster care was 163 children.

**WHEREAS**, in 2025, all Hunt County children involved in the foster care system were served by the state's Community-Based Care contractor EMPOWER.

**WHEREAS**, in 2025 there were a total of 6,991 Court Appointed Special Advocates® – or CASA volunteers – in Texas who are assigned by the court to speak up for children's best interests;

**WHEREAS**, last year, CASA volunteers throughout Texas advocated for 17,431 children in foster care system, giving 324,820 volunteer hours, and conducting 402,999 instances of advocacy actions in service to 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 163 of our county's children in crisis;

**WHEREAS**, in 2025, CASA for Hunt County volunteer advocates logged 12,368 hours of casework and traveled 49,733 miles in order to serve the children in which they are appointed, saving Hunt County taxpayers about \$371,040 with volunteer advocate services;

**WHEREAS**, in 2025, these CASA for Hunt County volunteers provided 7,121 instances of advocacy actions toward the children's personal wellness and safety.

**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 62,785 children, with 45% between ages of 6 and 12 years old;

**WHEREAS**, in 2025, 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 690 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;

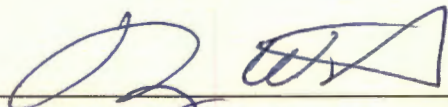
**WHEREAS**, child abuse prevention cannot be tasked to one community, agency, or system; all Texans must work together to strengthen our communities and build localized supports that are accessible, contribute to the well-being of the entire community, and keep children and families safe together.

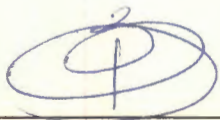
**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote preventive efforts;

**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**, We ask that Bobby W. Stovall, County Judge for Hunt County, Texas, and the Hunt County Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 2026 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.

  
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Bobby W. Stovall, Hunt County Judge

Attest:   
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Becky Landrum, Hunt County Clerk

