

Proclamation:

Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, April 2026

WHEREAS, in Federal fiscal year 2025, the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services confirmed 51,985 victims of child abuse or neglect, including 12 in Sabine County; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and shape our future; and child abuse and neglect are serious problems affecting every segment of our community and has long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims; additionally, the impact of abuse and neglect has long-term personal, economic and social costs; therefore, hurting the future of our community; and

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

WHEREAS, finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses and law enforcement agencies; and volunteers. Communities must make every effort to encourage volunteerism and promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families;

WHEREAS, Court Appointed Special Advocates® – CASA volunteers – are assigned by the court to speak up for a child’s best interest and help ensure a child’s voice is heard; Every child in foster care deserves a CASA volunteer, but roughly less than half the children in care do not have a CASA volunteer; and

WHEREAS, CASA of the Sabine Neches Region, Child Protective Services, Child Advocacy Centers, foster parents, teachers and others work to ensure that children in our community have a safe, happy future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daryl Melton, Sabine County Judge, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH in Sabine County, Texas 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

Daryl Melton

Sabine County Judge