

Official Proclamation

Family Court Awareness Month – November 2026

WHEREAS, the term "family court" as used in this proclamation refers to the Arizona Superior Court, which handles family law matters in this state; and

WHEREAS, the family courts of this nation decide each year where hundreds of thousands of children will live and with whom they will spend time unsupervised, making these among the most consequential decisions any court makes about a child's safety; and

WHEREAS, researchers estimate that more than 58,000 children each year are ordered by family courts into unsupervised contact with a physically or sexually abusive parent following divorce or separation; and

WHEREAS, the period immediately following separation is the most dangerous time for adult victims of domestic violence and for their children, and the risk of harm to a child increases after parents separate; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Judicial Excellence has documented 944 children in the United States killed by a parent or parental figure since 2008 in circumstances involving divorce, separation, custody, visitation, or child support; and

WHEREAS, in a significant number of those cases a court had been informed in advance of a documented history of violence, and the child was nonetheless placed in unsupervised contact with the person who caused the harm; and

WHEREAS, ongoing, evidence-based training for judges, custody evaluators, guardians ad litem, and court personnel on domestic violence, coercive control, post-separation abuse, and the effects of trauma on children is essential to preventing these outcomes; and

WHEREAS, protective parents who raise safety concerns in family court deserve to be heard on the evidence rather than dismissed, and children deserve to be believed; and

WHEREAS, Family Court Awareness Month invites courts, legislators, advocates, and communities to work together toward a family court system in which the safety and well-being of children is the first consideration;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kell Palguta, Mayor of the Town of Prescott Valley, do hereby proclaim November 2026 to be,

"FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH"

And further, that the third Wednesday of November be recognized as Hot Pink Day, on which residents are encouraged to wear pink in visible recognition of the children whose safety depends on these courts; and call upon our residents to recognize the children whose safety depends on these courts, to honor those who have been lost, and to support the reforms that will protect those still before the bench.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of The Town of Prescott Valley Arizona to be affixed this 22nd day of October 2026.


Fatima Fernandez, Town Clerk

Mayor:


Kell Palguta, Mayor



Town of Prescott Valley