



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, every child deserves to grow up in a safe, nurturing environment free from abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect does not discriminate and affects children of all ages, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds and poses a threat to their physical, emotional, and developmental health; and

WHEREAS, in the last fiscal year, the Williamson County Child Advocacy Center reviewed 6,396 intakes of alleged child abuse in Fiscal Year 2024, (5,298 in 2023, 5469 in 2022,), 3,452 so far since October 1, 2024, conducted 968 forensic interviews (917 in 2023, 779 in 2022,), with 58% of cases involving sexual abuse, 25% physical abuses, and 10% neglect, and they provided 429 medical exams; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse requires collaboration among families, communities, organizations, and government entities to create safe, stable, and nurturing environments for all children; and

WHEREAS, the Williamson County Commissioners Court continues to recognize the importance of promoting awareness and prevention efforts to address the widespread issue of the harm done to our youngest residents through the support we give to the Williamson County Child Advocacy Center, which served 569 families through advocacy, delivered trauma therapy to 241 individuals, and educated 24,197 individuals on child safety through K-12 student education and staff education and organizational trainings; and

WHEREAS, the Child Advocacy Center plays a pivotal role in providing a safe and supportive space for children who have been abused, offering comprehensive services that promote healing for both the child victims and their non-offending family members and invests in prevention that not only supports healthy child development but also significantly reduces long-term costs to society.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Williamson County Commissioners Court hereby proclaims April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month in Williamson County, supporting efforts that empower families, train community members, and foster partnerships with local law enforcement and child-serving providers to create safer environments for children.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon all residents, organizations, and community leaders to join together in a shared effort to prevent child abuse, raise awareness of its impact, and support the vital work of the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center in providing hope and healing for children and families.

Passed by Commissioners Court and Signed on this date: April 8, 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Valerie Covey'.

Valerie Covey, Presiding Officer

On behalf of the Williamson County Commissioners Court Members