

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month  
**Author:** Stephanie Johnson, County Clerk  
**Department:** Administration  
**Meeting Date:** 04/21/2026  
**Item Description:** Consideration to approve a Proclamation declaring April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month

### Summary Recommendation:

Staff support the Proclamation as presented by the Effingham County Exchange Club.

### Executive Summary:

The Board of Commissioners commonly supports initiatives which provide awareness and a better quality of life for all citizens of Effingham County.

### Background:

April is recognized nationally as Child abuse Prevention Month. Child abuse and neglect are unfortunate occurrences which happen all over our country. According to the National Children's Alliance (NCA) 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys in the U.S. are estimated to experience child sexual abuse. countless children are abused in the US each year. The organization further reports that 1 billion globally are estimated to experience sexual violence.

Neglect is the most common form of abuse. However, statically children experience multiple forms of abuse. More than 550,000 children are known to U.S. authorities to be abused. American welfare authorities look into the safety of more than 7.5 million kids annually. Of those, approximately 3 million children received an investigation or alternative response from child protective services agencies.

### Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Approve the Proclamation as presented.
2. To not approve the Proclamation.

**Recommended Alternative:** Staff recommends Alternative number 1

**Other Alternatives:** N/A

**Department Review:** Administration

**Funding Source:** No funding is required.

### Attachments:

1. Proclamation