



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Proclamation

A PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING APRIL 2026 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, April is National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, a time set aside each year to acknowledge the importance of protecting children and strengthening families across our nation; and,

WHEREAS, the national organization Prevent Child Abuse America adopted the pinwheel as the symbol of child abuse prevention, reminding us of the bright future every child deserves — a future we are obligated to protect — and Arapahoe County therefore planted pinwheel gardens at county buildings throughout the community as a visible pledge of that commitment; and,

WHEREAS, the early experiences of children shape who they become throughout life — both positively and negatively — and that safe, loving, and stable environments in the earliest years of life are foundational to a child's long-term health and success; and,

WHEREAS, Arapahoe County Child Protection Services received 14,209 referrals of child abuse and neglect in 2025 alone, reflecting the scale and urgency of this challenge in our own community; and,

WHEREAS, of those referrals, 4,305 required a caseworker to respond to the home, meet with the alleged victim and family, and conduct a thorough assessment of safety concerns — a testament to the dedication of our county's child protection workforce; and,

WHEREAS, in 2026, we recognize the growing body of research on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) confirming that trauma-informed, prevention-focused interventions — when applied early — can meaningfully reduce harm, promote resilience, and improve outcomes for children and families; and,

WHEREAS, strengthening families through proven protective factors — including concrete economic support, strong social networks, knowledge of parenting and child development, and access to community-based services — reduces the likelihood of abuse and neglect and ensures children have the foundation for lifelong well-being; and,

WHEREAS, Arapahoe County remains committed to collaborative, community-wide approaches to child safety, including partnerships with schools, health systems, faith communities, nonprofits, and residents who share the belief that every child deserves to grow up free from abuse and fear; and,

WHEREAS, we all share a responsibility as residents of Arapahoe County to foster the potential of every child, prevent child abuse in all its forms, recognize the warning signs, speak up on behalf of children who cannot speak for themselves, and promote healthy, positive childhoods for all; and,

WHEREAS, prevention remains the strongest and most compassionate defense we can offer our children and families — and that this work belongs to all of us.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims April 2026 as **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in Arapahoe County, and calls on all residents to educate themselves on the signs of child abuse and neglect, support families in their communities, and report concerns to local authorities — because every child deserves safety, dignity, and the chance to thrive.

Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully

Commissioner Jessica Campbell

Commissioner Leslie Summey
Chair of the Board

Commissioner Jeff Baker
Chair Pro Tem

Commissioner Rhonda Fields