

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

PROCLAIMING APRIL 2025 AS
NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH
IN THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month has been observed each April since its first presidential proclamation in 1983, and since that time, individuals, organizations, and communities across the nation have participated in this critical campaign to increase awareness of child maltreatment, and the importance of prevention; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 there were 2,256 reports of child abuse or neglect with 845 cases warranting an investigation in Santa Cruz County; and

WHEREAS, also last year, the County of Santa Cruz Human Services Department's Family and Children's Services (FCS) division served 248 children who were either abused, neglected, or were at risk of potential abuse or neglect, including 223 children in out of home care, to achieve child safety, child and family well-being, and safe permanent homes for children experiencing abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS, every community has a stake in the safety, permanency, and well-being of its children, and by promoting and supporting programs and services that provide resources for children and families, the community can be effective in preventing child abuse and neglect; and

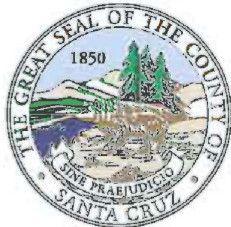
WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention hinges on open and effective, trauma-informed communication, collaboration, and partnership among agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, the business community, and community members; and

WHEREAS, FCS has collaborated with community partners to develop and implement a Comprehensive Prevention Plan in line with the Family First Prevention Services Act, to strengthen our community's network of preventative services for children and youth at risk of involvement with the child welfare or juvenile probation systems; and

WHEREAS, FCS partners with the United Way of Santa Cruz County's Children's Network, who brings public education, government and nonprofit agencies together to improve youth well-being through improving school attendance and linking families to resources that support children and youth; and

WHEREAS, all forms of child abuse are unacceptable and preventable, and we can all help prevent child abuse by supporting programs and services that provide children, youth and families with the economic, educational, health and well-being supports that aid in the prevention of abuse, and by responding to families in crisis, and linking them to needed services and opportunities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Felipe Hernandez, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaim the month of April 2025 to be National Child Abuse Prevention month in the County of Santa Cruz, and, urge all community members to join the Human Services Department's Family and Children's Services in helping prevent child abuse by contributing in whatever way possible to strengthen families and support the safety, permanency, and well-being of all children in the county.




Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

March 28, 2025
Date