

Proclamation
Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month
April 2026

WHEREAS, in Federal fiscal year 2025, the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services confirmed 10,011 new victims of child abuse or neglect, including 38 in Upshur County; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Texas; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, and law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families;

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment;

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for children and families;

WHEREAS, the impact of abuse and neglect has long-term personal, economic and social costs; therefore, hurting Texas' future;

WHEREAS, Court Appointed Special Advocates - CASA volunteers - are assigned by the court to speak up for a child's best interest and help ensure a child's voice is heard;

WHEREAS, every child in foster care deserves a CASA volunteer, but roughly less than half the children in care do not have a CASA volunteer;

WHEREAS, 6,991 CASA volunteers spoke up for the best interest of 17,431 children in Texas last year;

WHEREAS, East Texas CASA, Child Protective Services, 4Kids4Families, Child Advocacy Centers, foster parent, teachers and others work to ensure that children in our community have a safe, happy future;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the **UPSHUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in Upshur County and urge all Citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

PROCLAIMED this the 31st day of MARCH 2026 by the Upshur County Commissioner's Court.



TODD TEFTELLER, Upshur County Judge



GENE DOLLE, Commissioner, Pct. 1



DUSTIN NICHOLSON, Commissioner, Pct. 2



MIKE ASHLEY, Commissioner, Pct. 3



JAY W. MILLER, Commissioner, Pct. 4