

**Before the Board of County Commissioners
Martin County, Florida**

A Proclamation

Declaring Child Abuse Prevention Month in Martin County, Florida

- Whereas** based on recent data, approximately 4 million reports of child abuse are made annually to child protective services; and
- Whereas,** our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Martin County; and
- Whereas** child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and
- Whereas** effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies and families; and
- Whereas** Hibiscus Children’s Center has been providing life-changing services to abused, neglected and abandoned children since 1985, and has provided over 500,000 safe nights since opening its doors; and
- Whereas** the mission of Hibiscus is to provide a safe haven, mental health support, preventative care and life skills for at-risk children and families; and
- Whereas** we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and continue to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable and nurturing environment.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners that **April 2026 is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Martin County, Florida**. Further, the Board urges all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating themselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

Presented this Seventh Day of April 2026

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CAROLYN TIMMANN, CLERK OF THE
CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

SARAH HEARD, CHAIR

EDWARD V. CIAMPI, VICE CHAIRMAN

EILEEN VARGAS, COMMISSIONER

STACEY HETHERINGTON, COMMISSIONER

J. BLAKE CAPPS, COMMISSIONER