

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

**A Proclamation**

**Recognizing Family Abduction Awareness Day in Martin County**

- Whereas,**

this day is dedicated to raising awareness of family abductions, which have a devastating impact on both the abducted child and the left-behind family, causing emotional and psychological trauma. While non-family abductions make up only 1% of missing child reports to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), family abductions constitute a significantly larger portion of these cases; and
- Whereas,**

the month of May serves as a pivotal time to combat family abductions, reunite missing children with their families, and recognize those dedicated to protecting society’s most vulnerable. This month offers an opportunity to raise awareness, support affected families, and strengthen community efforts to prevent future abductions; and
- Whereas,**

a family abduction occurs when a child is taken, wrongfully retained, or concealed by a parent or other family member, denying another individual their right to custody or visitation, even in cases with unclear or absent court orders. Such abductions are often driven by the perpetrator’s frustration with the left-behind parent, the legal system, or personal circumstances; and
- Whereas,**

Martin County is committed to remaining vigilant and informed about the dangers facing children in our community, recognizing that family abduction is a serious crime in all states, not merely a civil matter. Law enforcement officers should treat these incidents as severe forms of child abuse, rather than minor offenses; and

**Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners** that May 25, 2025 is recognized as Family Abduction Awareness Day in Martin County, Florida. The Board encourages all citizens to join in the efforts to prevent future family abductions across the Treasure Coast.

**Presented this Twentieth Day of May 2025**

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CAROLYN TIMMANN, CLERK OF THE  
CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

SARAH HEARD, CHAIR

EDWARD V. CIAMPI, VICE CHAIR

EILEEN VARGAS, COMMISSIONER

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