



APRIL

Child Abuse Prevention Month

COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office is asking the residents of Fresno County to take a stand against Child Abuse this April.

April was first declared Child Abuse Prevention Month in 1983. Since then, April has been a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse. In 2017, it was reported that an estimated 674,000 children were victims of child abuse or neglect, and 1,720 children died as a result of abuse or neglect nationwide. It is estimated that one in four children have experienced abuse or neglect at some point in their lives.

The majority of child abuse cases stemmed from situations and conditions that are preventable when community programs and systems are engaged, supportive, and include services focusing on parental resilience, trauma history, nurturing and attachment, social connections, knowledge about parenting and child development, social and emotional competence of children, and concrete supports for parents.

Children's lives are shaped by their experiences, including what happens in their environment and the types of relationships they have with parents, teachers, and other caregivers. Children who experience abuse, neglect, and other adverse childhood experiences have an increased risk for negative health consequences and certain chronic diseases as adults.

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office takes Child Abuse seriously, employing a team of experienced prosecutors to vigorously protect and defend the children of Fresno County.

If you suspect that a child is being abused, please remember that help is available. To report child abuse in Fresno County, call the Child Protection Hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (559) 600-8320. If you need immediate assistance, call 911 or your local law enforcement agency.

The Media may email FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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