

City of Florence Proclamation

APRIL 2016 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION & AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, in 2015, Williamson County reported an estimated population of 140,333 children of which 2,047 child abuse or neglect cases were investigated by Child Protective Services. 770 children were forensically interviewed by the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center of which resulted in 672 children being confirmed victims of child abuse or neglect; 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 Williamson County and the State of Texas; and

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, 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 and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, the Florence Police Department, the Children's Advocacy Center, Child Protective Services, Emergency Medical Services, the County Attorney's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Judges and their staff, all work together and play a critical role in the prevention and healing of abused and neglected children in our community; and

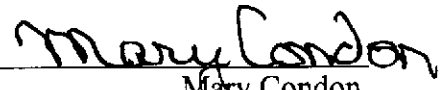
WHEREAS, the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center exists to provide a child friendly, safe place to disclose child abuse, reduce emotional trauma for children and their non-offending family members, and extend professional services that protect the integrity of an investigation; and

NOW THEREFORE; Mayor, Mary Condon and the Florence City Council do hereby proclaim April 2016, as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION & AWARENESS MONTH

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 by recognizing; and, hereby recognize the *Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center* for its outstanding service to protect the unprotected, seek justice against child maltreatment and encourage all citizens to be vigilant in recognizing and reporting child abuse in Florence, TX.

In recognition whereof, I have hereby set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Florence, Texas, to be hereunto affixed this 5th day of April, 2016.


Mary Condon,
Mayor,
City of Florence, Texas

