



**STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

In Texas, we place an immense value on our children because we know they represent the future of our state and nation. Every child deserves to feel valued, secure, loved, and to enjoy the opportunity to grow and learn in a safe and supportive environment. Sadly, child abuse is far too common in our society. In 2020 alone, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services confirmed over 68,000 cases in which an innocent child was a victim of abuse or neglect. Child abuse and neglect are serious public health issues that influence child development, family stability, and health outcomes across Texas, and we must continue working to ensure that all Texas children are safe and secure.

There are four types of child maltreatment: physical abuse, which often results in the bodily harm of a child; neglect, or the failure to provide a child with the basic and necessary needs to sustain a healthy life; sexual abuse, a heinous crime that leaves its survivors with emotional and physical scars; and emotional abuse, which impairs a child's growth and development by using emotions to criticize, embarrass, shame, blame, or otherwise manipulate them. Recognizing the signs of child abuse, in any form, is vital to protect our children, some of the most vulnerable Texans among us.

In order to fight this serious issue, children's advocacy groups, nonprofit organizations, social workers, and government agencies throughout the Lone Star State are working diligently to help children and families grow and thrive through education and awareness. The compassion and commitment of these different groups help ensure children have caregivers and homes that support their physical, intellectual, and emotional needs.

Each year, the month of April is dedicated to recognizing that the safety and welfare of children in Texas must remain a priority and to honoring the friends, neighbors, educators, faith leaders, business owners, health care workers, counselors, and many others who help safeguard the well-being of our children. When we stand together, our unity sends a strong message that Texans value life and offers a renewal of courage for the future. Every child deserves the opportunity to reach for their dreams, and together we can give every child the chance to live a happy and fulfilling life.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about the signs of child abuse, as well as about the many groups, leaders, and communities working hard to protect our children and ensure the future success of Texas for generations to come.


Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim April 2022 to be

## **Child Abuse Prevention Month**



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,  
I hereby affix my signature this the  
3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2022.

  
Governor of Texas