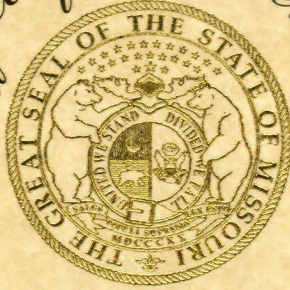


Office of the Governor



State of Missouri

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, children are the state's most precious and valuable resource and the future of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2023, 41 children in Missouri died from abuse or neglect, and the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline received 61,712 reports of abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS, every child in Missouri deserves to thrive and live safely in a home free from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of children relies on Missourians reporting concerns about a child to the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline which operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year; and

WHEREAS, every Missourian can take steps to help strengthen and empower families; and

WHEREAS, one of the best ways to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect is to ensure parents and caregivers have the knowledge, skills, support, and resources they need to care for children; and

WHEREAS, communities have a great influence on the lives of Missouri children and families and can be a valuable resource during tough times; and

WHEREAS, child abuse prevention emphasizes the importance of families and communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim April 2024, to be

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 20th day of March, 2024.



Michael L. Parson

Michael L. Parson
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Jay Ashcroft

SECRETARY OF STATE