



## Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation Toolkit

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa works with communities around the state as a part of our mission to “empower community prevention efforts to provide safe and happy childhoods.” **We are encouraging every County Board of Supervisors in Iowa to officially proclaim April 2022 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.**

Governor Kim Reynolds issued a statewide proclamation in 2021. Our goal is to add an additional 99 proclamations in 2022!

Our goal is for every Child Abuse Prevention Council in the state to receive an official proclamation from their County Board of Supervisors. Enclosed you will find the language from the Governor’s proclamation, which may be adapted for use in your county. We have also attached resources to help you find your county governance, and some tips and ideas for engaging your leaders and community members in prevention activities.

The success of our community relies on each of us to build connections that will strengthen families and build happy and safe childhoods for our kids. We all have a role in preventing child abuse. These proclamations make a proud statement that the health and safety of our children is our priority.

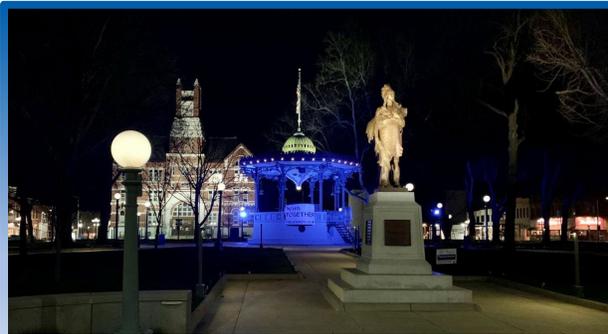
More information about the 2021 statewide proclamation can be found [here](#).



## Making the Request

- ✿ Visit the [Iowa State Association of Counties](#) website to find your county government contacts.
- ✿ Reach out to your Supervisors to request the proclamation. You can send them the Governor's example, or draft your own example based on your unique community. Many counties have an online form for requesting a proclamation—we suggest that you reach out and make a personal connection before submitting this request.
- ✿ The following points may help encourage your county officials to act:
  - Invite your Supervisors to your next Council meeting and encourage them to get involved with your group.
  - Share any activities your Council has done or is planning for CAP month, and invite your Supervisors to make this proclamation a part of the festivities. **We are hoping for 99 photos of community leaders wearing blue and proudly displaying their Pinwheels for Prevention!**
  - Provide them with the Governor's statewide proclamation language as a starting place, or draft your own version that suits your community best.

**Communities across Iowa use a wide variety of creative ways to bring awareness to Child Abuse Prevention. Pinwheel gardens, blue lights, signs, and family events are all great ways to get your community involved. A proclamation signing or celebration is a great way to bring community leaders and families together.**



## Sample Proclamation Language

*A proclamation typically contains 4-6 “whereas” clauses that describe the context, followed by a “therefore” that issues the official proclamation. This is not an endorsement or a law—rather, it serves as an official announcement. This language is simply an example—each county should draft the proclamation that best suits their goals and vision for the care and support of children and families.*

April 1, 2022

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem that can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, all members of a community benefit from creating conditions that support strong and healthy families; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; 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, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, \_\_\_\_\_, [Title and County], do hereby proclaim April as NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in [County] 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.



  
**State of Iowa**  
**Executive Department**

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS,** our children are our most valuable resource and provide hope for the future of Iowa; and together we can support safe, healthy families in our communities by partnering to protect children; and

**WHEREAS,** due to the global pandemic, children in our state are facing increased risk factors for child abuse and neglect and children suffering from child abuse are at increased risk for negative social, professional, and health outcomes later in life; and

**WHEREAS,** child abuse is 100% preventable and the cost of treating the impacts of child abuse is significantly higher than the cost of preventing it; and research continually shows that preventing child abuse and other Adverse Childhood Experiences drastically reduces the number of major health crises facing our country; and

**WHEREAS,** communities can ensure child abuse prevention programs succeed through local partnerships, and every child can have a great childhood by making sure each family has the support and education they need in raising their children in safe, nurturing environments; and

**WHEREAS,** positive social supports for children and adults are key factors to improving social well-being, reducing the risk of child abuse in Iowa, developing resiliency and healing from trauma;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2021 as

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KIM REYNOLDS  
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PAUL PATE  
SECRETARY OF STATE