

**Proclamation: Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, April 2023**

**WHEREAS**, in Federal fiscal year 2021-2022, the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services confirmed 56,944 victims of child abuse or neglect, including 617 in BROWN County; and 1 child death.

**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 Texas; and

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

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

**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**, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families;

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and continue to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment;

**WHEREAS**, prevention remains the best defense for children and families;

**WHEREAS**, the impact of abuse and neglect has long-term personal, economic and social costs; therefore, hurting Texas' future;

**WHEREAS**, Court Appointed Special Advocates® – CASA volunteers – are assigned by the court to speak up for a child's best interest and help ensure a child's voice is heard; every child in foster care deserves a CASA volunteer, but roughly less than half the children in care do not have a CASA volunteer; 9,590 TX CASA volunteers spoke up for the best interest of 23,943 children in Texas last year;

**WHEREAS**, Brown County Child Welfare Board currently serves individuals that are involved with Child Protective Services (CPS) and 2INgage within Brown County. A large majority of the individuals served are in kinship placements from various socio-economic statuses that may not be able to afford the unexpected cost of raising additional children;

**WHEREAS**, our agency currently helps caregivers that take in kinship children with emergency placement funding and access to the Rainbow Room that provides necessities 24 hours a day to those removed, as well as to assist individuals with back to school expenses, birthdays, Christmas gifts, and other special requests that are submitted by the local CPS or 2INgage Directors.

**WHEREAS, WHEREAS**, CASA in the Heart of Texas, Child Welfare Board of Brown County, Child Protective Services, 2INgage, foster parents, teachers and others work to ensure that children in our community have a safe, happy future;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE BROWN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in **BROWN** 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.

Signed

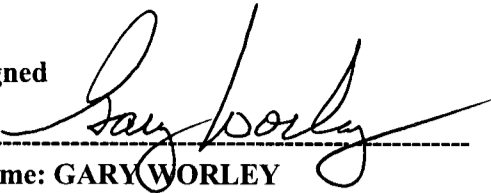


Name: SHANE BRITTON

Title: COUNTY JUDGE

April 3, 2023  
(Exhibit #5)

Signed

  
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Name: GARY WORLEY

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Title: COMMISSIONER PCT.1

Signed

  
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Name: JOEL KELTON

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Title: COMMISSIONER PCT.2

Signed

  
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Name: WAYNE SHAW

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Title: COMMISSIONER PCT.3

Signed

  
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Name: LARRY TRAWEEK

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Title: COMMISSIONER PCT.4