

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## Proclamation

***WHEREAS**, the month of April has been nationally recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month since it was first established in 1983 by presidential proclamation; it is a time for families and communities to work together to prevent child abuse; and*

***WHEREAS**, according to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, in 2013 in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, an estimated 679,000 children were victims of child abuse, and 1,484 children died as a result of abuse or neglect; and*

***WHEREAS**, it is important for all in the community to be aware of the warning signs of child abuse and neglect, including sudden changes in behavior or school performance, untreated physical or medical issues, lack of adult supervision, and constant alertness, as though preparing for something bad to happen; and*

***WHEREAS**, this year, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services is focused on spreading the word about changes to the child protective services law to non-licensed mandated reporters; the department is also partnering with A Child's Place at Mercy and the Allegheny County Library Association to hold educational sessions for library personnel; and*

***WHEREAS**, Allegheny County is committed to preventing and stopping child abuse and neglect; we believe that every child deserves the opportunity to feel safe, and grow up with the promise and protection of a loving family and community; we will continue to stand up for the rights of children knowing that each one is special and deserves love and respect.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim April 2015 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Allegheny County.*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2015.*

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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Rich Fitzgerald