

Eric J. Holcomb, Governor Terry J. Stigdon, MSN, RN, Director

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Child Support Hotline: 800-840-8757 Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800-800-5556

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Gov. Holcomb kicks off Child Abuse Prevention Month

INDIANAPOLIS (April 1, 2019) – Gov. Eric Holcomb joined Indiana Department of Child Services director Terry Stigdon for an event at the Statehouse Monday to kick off National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The governor issued a <u>proclamation</u> and reminded audience members that child abuse is a problem that impacts all Hoosiers, and Stigdon spoke about the importance of communities coming together to ensure Indiana's children are safe.

"Kids do best when they're with their families, but more importantly, families do best in strong, safe and supportive communities," Stigdon said. "We all need to work together to make sure parents have the necessary resources to help every child reach their full potential."

Throughout the month of April, DCS and its partners will host events across the state to highlight ways everyone can play a role in making Indiana a better place to live for Hoosier children and families. Click <u>here</u> for an interactive guide on child abuse prevention month events in your community.

*Pictures from the kickoff event are attached.

- Gov Holcomb and DCS director planting pinwheels.jpg
- Gov Holcomb and DCS director with proclamation.JPG



Indiana children will live in safe, healthy and supportive families and communities.

How can you help prevent abuse and neglect?

- If you suspect abuse or neglect, please call the Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-800-5556.
- Reach out to parents that you know and offer a hand or emotional support.
- Volunteer time to programs that help parents.
- Let all of the children in your life know that that they can depend on you.
- Advocate for community services to help families.
- Consider becoming a foster parent by visiting our website <u>here</u>.

For more information and resources on preventing child abuse and neglect, click here.

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About Indiana DCS: The Indiana Department of Child Services engages with families and collaborates with state, local and community partners to protect children from abuse and neglect and to provide child support services. Indiana Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 800.800.5556. Child Support Customer Service Kidsline: 800.840.8757 or 317.233.5437. www.in.gov/dcs



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