



For Immediate Release
Contact: Ann Stevens,
Public Information Coordinator
937-225-5693

March 31, 2009

CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS HOLD STEADY IN 2008

Montgomery County Commissioners announced today that new investigations of child abuse in 2008 remained consistent with the two previous years, but expressed grave concern over the severity of the abuse that is occurring. “The latest numbers, when compared to 2007 and 2006, indicate that Montgomery County is holding the line when it comes to new child abuse investigations,” noted County Commission President Dan Foley. “Of greater concern is that very young children, especially infants, continue to endure severe injuries like blunt force trauma and broken bones along with not receiving basic care when it comes to their medical and educational needs.”

In 2007, there were 4,357 new child abuse investigations while in 2006 new investigations were 4,044. The following is a breakdown of the 4,253 new child abuse investigations during 2008 in Montgomery County:

Sexual abuse:	397	Physical abuse:	981
Emotional abuse:	455	Neglect:	1,604
Dependency:	224	Other:	592

“The well-being of children is being severely impacted by parents who are distracted from their child’s needs because of their own inability to cope with different factors such as substance abuse. This by no means should be interpreted as an excuse for child abuse,” said Children Services Assistant Director Gayle Bullard. “But a lack of parenting skills and trouble managing stress can often lead to child abuse.”

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about the problem. To report child abuse and neglect in Montgomery County, call local law enforcement or Children Services at 224-KIDS.