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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prosecutor Heck Recognizes April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

DAYTON, OH (04/01/2021) – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today the recognition of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month to bring to the public’s attention the importance of giving every child a safe, stable, and nurturing place to live, learn, and grow.

Everyone can have an active role in helping to prevent child abuse and neglect. The assistance of the public in communicating and reporting incidents of suspected child abuse is crucial. Safety plans must be put into place and continuous follow-up needs to occur. Law enforcement and the courts have a significant role in protecting victims, especially children, from future harm. As long as there is a single case of child abuse or neglect in our community, we need to do a better job. Every child deserves to be raised without fear of abuse or neglect.

Prosecutor Heck continued, “As we put the one-year anniversary of the pandemic behind us and head into National Child Abuse Prevention Month, people and families are still stressed more than usual. Many children are out of school and many parents are not back to work or are working from home. This greatly increases the chances of child abuse and domestic violence.”

“Therefore, now, more than ever, it is important that if you see something, say something. Report suspected child abuse or neglect by calling your local law enforcement agency or the child protection agency. In an emergency, call 911.”

The child protection agency number in Montgomery County is (937) 224-KIDS (5437).

Heck continued, “Later this year, we will announce the recipient of the 2021 Champion of Children Award. In the meantime, billboards will be shown throughout the county to remind citizens to be vigilant. We have also created a reminder about this month in front of the Dayton-Montgomery County Courts Building, by displaying blue pinwheels. Working together, we can make a difference in the lives of abused or neglected children in Montgomery County.”

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