

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION 2024 –

WHEREAS, every 40 seconds, a child goes missing or is abducted in the United States, and 90% of all missing children get taken by their parents or another family member; and

WHEREAS, a family abduction occurs when a child is taken, wrongfully retained, or concealed by a parent or other family member, depriving another individual of their right to custody or visitation, even in cases with vague or absent court orders; and

WHEREAS, a family abduction is often an act of frustration with the left-behind parent, the legal system, or their own situation in life, and has distinctive characteristics that include emotional and psychological trauma to the child and left-behind family; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers should recognize these events not as harmless offenses, but instead as an insidious form of child abuse; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on law enforcement agencies to maintain written plans which specify actions and procedures for promptly meeting situations of alleged family abductions; and

WHEREAS, courts have held that law enforcement is responsible for assuring that the child is with the person who has lawful custody and must verify the validity of any court orders, and when an agency fails to identify a need for training and to set policy for matters which are foreseeable, it creates a threat to public health; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the National Parents Organization and its collaborative organization, May 25, 2024, is **FAMILY ABDUCTION AWARENESS DAY**, which serves as a reminder to strengthen efforts to reduce the threat of family abduction, reunite children with their families, and honor those who are dedicated to the ongoing mission to combat family abduction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaims May 25, 2024, as **FAMILY ABDUCTION AWARENESS DAY** in Hernando County.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners hereby encourages all local governments and law enforcement agencies to initiate community outreach programs to reduce threats of family abduction.

ADOPTED in Regular Session this 14th day of May 2024, A.D.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Attest:

Douglas A. Chorvat, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

Elizabeth Narverud
Chairperson

John Allocco
Commissioner

Brian Hawkins
Vice Chairman

Steve Champion
Commissioner

Jerry Campbell
Second Vice Chairman