

Proclamation

25-03

April marks Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM): a time to bring attention to the widespread issue of sexual violence and empower communities to take action.

Whereas, sexual violence is a serious and pervasive crime and 43.6% of women (nearly 52.2 million) and nearly a quarter of men (24.8% or 27.6 million) in the United States experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime;

Whereas, Most women and men across all sexual identities who experienced contact sexual violence reported that the person who harmed them was someone they knew (Chen, et al., 2023).

Whereas, four in five American Indian and Alaska Native women (84.3 percent) have experienced violence in their lifetime and one in two (56.1 percent) have experienced sexual violence.

Whereas, there are limited resources in underserved communities that serve victims of violence and their children, and provide safety and victim assistance; and sexual violence breaks the core of the human spirit and jeopardizes the future and wellbeing of our children and our communities;

Whereas, More than 1 and 4 non-Hispanic Black women (29%) in the United States were raped in their lifetime (Basile et al., 2022).

Whereas, 32.9% of adults with intellectual disabilities have experienced sexual violence (Tomsa et al., 2021).

Whereas, 1 in 3 Hispanic women (34.8%) reported unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime (Basile et al., 2022)

Whereas, 47% of all transgender people have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives (James et al., 2016).

Whereas, everyone has a right to be safe and ending sexual violence requires the leadership of survivors, support of elected officials and collaborative efforts of law enforcement, criminal justice systems, public health officials, Sexual Violence Prevention education programs and our community members; it is important that everyone shares a strong message that sexual violence is unacceptable and not our tradition as a people; and

Whereas, sexual violence remains one of the most prevalent, yet underreported crimes in the U.S. and ; therefore, be it



Franklin
COUNTY KANSAS
1891-1853

Resolved, that Franklin County proclaims the month of April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month, recognizing survivors of sexual violence and advocates and others that serve them during April, that we stand united in our commitment to end all forms of sexual violence in Franklin County.

Now, Therefore, the Sexual Trauma and Abuse CARE Center in Franklin County and Franklin County Commission in Kansas, do hereby proclaim April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We call upon Franklin County community members, law enforcement, local organizations, health officials and all community members to speak out against sexual violence and support efforts within our County to assist victims of violence and the healing they seek, and return our community to ways of respect, compassion and safety.

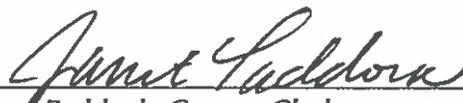
Sexual Assault Awareness Month | April 2025

Signed this 2nd day of April 2025.



Rod Harris, Commission Chair

Attested and Recorded this 2nd day of April 2025.



Janet Paddock, County Clerk

