

Charlotte County Florida



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, this day is dedicated to raising awareness for those impacted by family abduction—a crisis that inflicts profound emotional and psychological trauma on abducted children, their left-behind parents, and extended families—and presents an opportunity to combat such abductions, reunite missing children with their families, and honor those who safeguard our most vulnerable by strengthening community prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, a family abduction occurs when a child is taken, wrongfully retained, or concealed by a parent or family member, thereby denying another their right to custody or visitation—even in situations with unclear or absent court orders—and is often driven by personal grievances toward the left-behind parent, the legal system, or other circumstances; and

WHEREAS, although nonfamily abductions account for only 1% of missing child reports to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), family abductions make up a significantly larger proportion, thereby undermining family stability and eroding community trust; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte County remains steadfast in its vigilance against the dangers facing our children, recognizing family abduction as a serious crime that law enforcement must address as severe child abuse rather than treat as a minor infraction; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that law enforcement agencies maintain written protocols outlining prompt actions and procedures to address family abduction cases, thereby ensuring that children remain with their lawful custodians and that court orders are verified to safeguard public safety; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the month of May 25, 2025, shall be known in all of Charlotte County as

Family Abduction Awareness Day

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this 13th day of May 2025

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By _____
Joseph M. Tiseo, Chairman

ATTEST:

Roger D. Eaton, Clerk of Circuit
Court and Ex-Officio Clerk to the
Board of County Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Hector Flores, County Administrator