

*FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH*

**WHEREAS**, the mission of Family Court Awareness Month (FCAM) is to increase awareness on the importance of a family court system that prioritizes child safety and acts in the best interest of children, and;

**WHEREAS**, the mission at FCAM is fueled by the desire to create awareness and change in the family court system for the conservatively estimated, 58,000 children a year ordered into unsupervised contact with physically or sexually abusive parents, while honoring the hundreds of children who have been reported as murdered during visitation with a dangerous parent, and;

**WHEREAS**, the mission of FCAM is to increase awareness on the importance of empirically-based education and training on domestic violence, childhood trauma, child sexual abuse, coercive control, post separation abuse for all professionals working on cases within the family court system, and;

**WHEREAS**, the mission of FCAM is to increase awareness on the importance of using scientifically valid, evidence-based, treatment programs and services that are proven in terms of safety, effectiveness, and therapeutic value, and;

**WHEREAS**, the mission at FCAM is to educate judges and other family court professionals on evidence-based, peer-reviewed research. Such research is a critical component to making decisions that are truly in the best interest of children. This research includes CDC Study: The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study; National Institute of Justice funded Study: Child Custody Evaluators' Beliefs About Domestic Abuse Allegations; and The GW Law School, Institute of Justice funded Study: Child Custody Outcomes in Cases Involving Parental Alienation and Abuse Allegations

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, R.J. Crawford, Mayor of Crossville, hereby declare the month of NOVEMBER, to be FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH.

I encourage all residents to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the harm of children in the hands of family members and to honor and value the lives of children.

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Mayor R.J. Crawford

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Attest

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Date