

Wednesday, March 15, 2023  
12PM/11CT

# Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation Phone Conference/Webinar Agenda



## Discussion

1. **Welcome and Announcements – Everyone is invited!**
2. **Check the listings on the website to ensure your program information is up to date and correct for the quarterly report. If you need to add or change anything, email Lyndi Bradley at [lbradley2@fsu.edu](mailto:lbradley2@fsu.edu)**
3. **April Phone Conference: April 19, 2023**
4. **Questions from Directors: Subpoena asking for text messages to and from clients; parent speaks language in which no interpreter can be found, except from small community where everyone knows one another.**
5. **April is Child Abuse Awareness Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Stress Awareness Month, and Autism Acceptance Month.**
6. **New Bill Introduced: SB 1286**  
<https://m.flsenate.gov/session/bill/2023/1286/billtext/filed/html>
7. **New Clearinghouse Poster: Bounce Back and Thrive**
8. **Continue Discussion on Therapeutic Visitation for 2023-2024: Please let me know if you'd like to work on this issue separately as a small committee.**



APRIL IS

# CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

## HISTORY

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) was passed in 1974 and was the first piece of federal legislation to protect children from abuse. In 1983, Congress recognized April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Throughout April, governmental agencies, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to promote healthy, strong families through support and connection.

Child Abuse Prevention Month was designated and recognized with the understanding that healthy childhood development leads to a happier and healthier adulthood and ultimately community for all families.

## STATISTICS

- In the United States in 2020, an estimated 618,000 children were victims of abuse or neglect.
- Child welfare authorities look over approximately 7 million children each year.
- In 2020, around 1,750 children died as a result of abuse or neglect.
- 15% of victims are 12 months old or younger.
- In child abuse cases, where reports are founded, 77% of children are victimized at the hands of their parents.

(National Children's Alliance, 2021)

## FAST FACTS

These agencies are responsible for supporting programs and services that protect children and strengthen families:

- The Children's Bureau
- Administration for Children and Families
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The Blue ribbon symbolizes the commitment to Preventing Child Abuse. Many wear them to remember individuals who died at the hands of abuse, while others wear them to recognize those who have done so much to prevent abuse and neglect.



# Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April 2023

## HISTORY OF SAAM

Sexual assault is an epidemic that impacts individuals of every gender, age, race, social class, and other demographic groups. Sexual assault awareness and prevention have been working in tandem since the societal recognition of sexual assault as an issue. Social activism for survivors was at an all-time high in 1970 and sparked the creation of the first rape crisis center in 1971 in San Francisco, California. The following decades showed demand for legislation and funding to support survivors. Notable was the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA). VAWA is the federal legislation that mandates comprehensive responses to gender-based violence. VAWA is up for reauthorization every 5 years and builds on existing protections and programs to better support survivors. VAWA was reauthorized in 2022 and strengthened and expanded protections for diverse groups and local communities. President Obama declared the first official Sexual Assault Awareness and Education Month in 2009.

## LEADING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MOVEMENT

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) was launched in 2000 to coordinate national awareness and prevention efforts. The Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) is another awareness network that supports more than a thousand rape crisis centers across the United States.

Information obtained from: NSVRC, DOJ, CDC, & RAINN



The theme for SAAM 2023 is *Drawing Connections: Prevention Demands Equity*



## STARTLING STATISTICS

- About 1 in 5 American women disclosed that they have been raped.
- 10% of rape victims are men.
- 70% of rapes are committed by someone the victim knows. Cases where the perpetrator is a friend/acquaintance frequently go unreported.
- Only about 6 perpetrators per 1,000 rapes will be convicted.
- Almost half of all sexual assault and rape victims are under the age of 18.
- Approximately 1 in 3 male victims were raped for the first time before they were 11 years old.
- 80% of female victims experience their first rape before age 25.

## APRIL 26TH, 2023 IS DENIM DAY!

Denim Day is an international movement to bring awareness to victim blaming and prevention of sexual assault.

April is

# STRESS

## Awareness Month

### Why Stress Matters

Each April since 1992, organizations and individuals around the United States raise awareness and spread education about the adverse impact of stress. While there is not a single agreed upon definition for stress, the most commonly used definition includes mental, emotional, or physical tension/strain. Stress is the response to an external cause.

A stressor may be short-term or can occur repeatedly over a longer period of time. Not all stress is necessarily bad, but long-term stress can have harmful effects on one's physical or mental well-being.

If you are struggling to cope or your symptoms of stress are persistent, it may be time to talk to a professional.

### Activities for Stress Relief

- Keep a journal.
- Download a relaxation or mindfulness app.
- Exercise and eat healthy.
- Get good, consistent sleep.
- Avoid caffeine.
- Talk to positive friends/family.
- Challenge your negative thoughts.

Information obtained from: NIH, NIMH, CDC, & Prince George County government



### 01 HOW TO MANAGE STRESS

- Practice self-care.
- Set boundaries.
- Control what you can.
- Organize and prioritize.
- Ask for help/support when needed.

### 02 SOME SIGNS YOU MAY BE STRESSED

- Lack of motivation
- Feeling sad or depressed
- Trouble sleeping
- Trouble concentrating
- Feeling angry, nervous, burned out, or anxious

### 03 RESOURCES IF YOU'RE IN DISTRESS

- Call/Text the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988
- Chat online at [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org)
- Ask your employer about the Employee Assistance Program

APRIL 2023

# AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH



## What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a bio-neurological developmental disability. Signs/symptoms of autism normally appear before age 3. Autism impacts typical brain development in the areas of social interaction, communication skills, and cognitive functioning. Co-morbid medical conditions are not unusual for individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. ASD is diagnosed four times more often in males than females. While no cure exists, with early intervention and treatment, the wide range of symptoms can be improved.

## History of Autism Acceptance

The first Autism Awareness Month was declared by the Autism Society in the early 70s. In 2021, there was a call to action to change the goal of the month from *awareness* to *acceptance*. Local chapters and organizations around the country hold events throughout April to raise awareness and educate the public about autism. The goal for AAM is to build an inclusive community where all individuals are embraced and supported to achieve their best quality of life.

## Common Characteristics of Autism

While no two individuals with autism are the same, there are a few common areas of behavior and characteristics that typically impact those with ASD:

- Social skills
- Empathy
- Physical contact
- Sudden changes to their environment
- Speech
- Changes to behavior or routine
- Sensitivity to stimuli
- Hyperactivity
- Repetitive behaviors

## Statistics

- There are approximately 70 million individuals diagnosed with Autism globally.
- Approximately 1 in 44 children are diagnosed with Autism.
- Boys are 4x more likely than girls to be diagnosed with Autism.
- With early intervention and treatment, the impacts of Autism can be mitigated.

# BOUNCE BACK AND THRIVE!

## 7 Ways for Parents to Build Resilience

### OPTIMISM

Do more of what makes you happy. Know there is hope.

### SELF-COMPASSION

Mistakes do not define your life. Take note of how far you have come.

### SENSE OF MEANING

Remember that being a parent is important. Everyday is a new chance!

### COMMUNITY + SUPPORT

Find people and agencies that can help with your needs.

### HUMOR

There's always a reason to smile.

### COURAGE

Remember, you are capable of doing difficult things.

### STRONG SELF-WORTH

Your life is important  
You can adapt, change and grow.



By Senator Book

35-01309A-23

20231286\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to designated public safe exchange  
3       locations; amending s. 61.13, F.S.; requiring that  
4       certain information be included in a parenting plan;  
5       specifying that a parent may not be found in violation  
6       of a parenting plan, time-sharing schedule, or child  
7       exchange order, or charged with a certain offense,  
8       under certain circumstances; amending s. 125.01, F.S.;  
9       requiring boards of county commissioners to designate  
10      certain areas as public safe exchange locations for a  
11      specified purpose; providing requirements for such  
12      areas; providing immunity; amending s. 787.03, F.S.;  
13      providing that a parent of a child or the parent's  
14      designee may not be charged with the offense of  
15      interference with custody under certain circumstances;  
16      providing an effective date.

17  
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

19  
20       Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
21      61.13, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (10) is  
22      added to that section, to read:

23       61.13 Support of children; parenting and time-sharing;  
24      powers of court.—

25       (2)

26       (b) A parenting plan approved by the court must, at a  
27      minimum, include all of the following information:

28       1. A detailed description of ~~Describe in adequate detail~~  
29      how the parents will share and be responsible for the daily

35-01309A-23

20231286\_\_

30 tasks associated with the upbringing of the child.~~†~~

31 2. ~~Include~~ The time-sharing schedule arrangements that  
32 specify the time that the ~~minor~~ child will spend with each  
33 parent. The parenting plan must state that at any time,  
34 notwithstanding any provision in the agreed-upon parenting plan  
35 or time-sharing schedule or order relating to the exchange of  
36 the child, a parent or a parent's designee may choose to  
37 exchange the child with the other parent or the other parent's  
38 designee at a designated public safe exchange location as  
39 provided in s. 125.01(8).~~†~~

40 3. A designation of ~~Designate~~ who will be responsible for  
41 all of the following:

42 a. Any and all forms of health care. If the court orders  
43 shared parental responsibility over health care decisions, the  
44 parenting plan must provide that either parent may consent to  
45 mental health treatment for the child.

46 b. School-related matters, including the address to be used  
47 for school-boundary determination and registration.

48 c. Other activities.~~†~~ and

49 4. A detailed description of ~~Describe in adequate detail~~  
50 the methods and technologies that the parents will use to  
51 communicate with the child.

52 (10) A parent may not be found in violation of his or her  
53 parenting plan, time-sharing schedule, or child exchange order,  
54 or charged with the offense of interference with the parenting  
55 plan, time-sharing schedule, or child exchange order under s.  
56 787.03, if the parent or the parent's designee chooses to use a  
57 designated public safe exchange location to exchange custody of  
58 his or her child instead of a location that was previously



35-01309A-23

20231286\_\_

59 agreed to by both parents or stated in the parenting plan, time-  
60 sharing schedule, or child exchange order.

61 Section 2. Subsection (8) is added to section 125.01,  
62 Florida Statutes, to read:

63 125.01 Powers and duties.—

64 (8) (a) Each board of county commissioners shall designate  
65 one or more sheriff's office or police department locations that  
66 have staff on site 24-hours a day as a public safe exchange  
67 location at which parents or parents' designees may meet to  
68 exchange custody of a child. The designation must be based on  
69 the population of the county, as follows: a minimum of one  
70 location for a population of less than 50,000; a minimum of two  
71 locations for a population of less than 75,000; and a minimum of  
72 three locations for a population of more than 75,000.

73 (b) Each sheriff's office or police department designated  
74 as a public safe exchange location shall install a purple light  
75 on the outside of the building so the building is identifiable  
76 as a designated public safe exchange location. The parking lot  
77 of each public safe exchange location must be accessible 24  
78 hours a day, 7 days a week, and each public safe exchange  
79 location shall provide adequate lighting and an external video  
80 surveillance system that records continuously, 24 hours a day, 7  
81 days a week, and that meets all of the following criteria:

82 1. At least one camera is fixed on the entrance to the  
83 premises and is able to record the area in the vicinity of the  
84 purple light.

85 2. Records images clearly and such images accurately  
86 display the time and date.

87 3. Retains video surveillance recordings or images for at

35-01309A-23

20231286\_\_

88 least 6 months.

89 (c) A cause of action may not be brought against the  
90 county, the sheriff, a county commissioner, or a law enforcement  
91 officer or an employee of the designated public safe exchange  
92 location based on an incident that occurs when a parent or  
93 parent's designee meets at a public safe exchange location to  
94 exchange custody of his or her child.

95 Section 3. Subsection (7) is added to section 787.03,  
96 Florida Statutes, to read:

97 787.03 Interference with custody.—

98 (7) A parent of a child or the parent's designee may not be  
99 charged with an offense under this section solely for using or  
100 attempting to use a designated public safe exchange location as  
101 provided in s. 125.01(8) to exchange custody of his or her child  
102 instead of a location that was previously agreed to by both  
103 parents or specified in a parenting plan, time-sharing schedule,  
104 or child exchange order.

105 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

**Contact the Clearinghouse at  
850-644-1715**

