

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

March 31, 2016

DA Murray supports prevention efforts as officials launch Child Abuse Prevention Month

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Mecklenburg County District Attorney Andrew Murray joined local officials and child-serving organizations today to launch a month-long campaign that aims to promote child abuse prevention strategies and educate community members about the roles they play in protecting children.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. For the fourth year, the District Attorney's Office is a member agency of the Mecklenburg Child Abuse Prevention Team, which is made up of government, education, nonprofit and health organizations that work to support children.

"Every day, my prosecutors are confronted with the reality that child abuse happens here in Mecklenburg County," says DA Murray. "Each case file that crosses our desks represents a child who has needlessly suffered. Those children remind us just how critical it is that we all work together, take a stand for children and prevent abuse from ever occurring in our community."

The Mecklenburg Child Abuse Prevention Team hosted a press conference today at the Mecklenburg County Courthouse with remarks from DA Murray, Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts, Mecklenburg County Manager Dena Diorio and Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners Vice Chairman Dumont Clarke. Participants "planted" a garden of pinwheels, which are used nationally as symbols of child abuse awareness, outside the courthouse to serve as a visual reminder of the importance of prevention. Pinwheel gardens will be visible across Mecklenburg County in April at a variety of locations, including local schools, nonprofits and businesses.

Throughout April, the Mecklenburg Child Abuse Prevention Team will utilize outreach and social media to promote prevention tips and local resources. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and the YMCA of Greater Charlotte will provide age-appropriate lessons that will allow students to identify physical boundaries and how to get help.



District Attorney Andrew Murray joined local officials and leaders today to launch Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Today, DA Murray also emphasized everyone's obligation to report suspected child abuse. According to [North Carolina law](#), any person who has cause to suspect that a child is being abused or neglected must report the abuse or neglect to the proper authorities. In Mecklenburg County, reports can be made to police or the county's 24-hour child abuse and neglect hotline at 704-336-CARE (2273).

For more information about the Mecklenburg Child Abuse Prevention Team, prevention resources and upcoming events, visit www.meck4kids.org or follow the team on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

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