

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers in the Palmetto State served 14,184 children in 2025, providing necessary forensic interviews, investigative services, victim advocacy, medical evaluations, and mental health treatment services; and

WHEREAS, this represents a 71% increase in children served by children's advocacy centers in South Carolina since 2016; and

WHEREAS, although sexual abuse was the most common form of child maltreatment reported by children served at South Carolina Children's Advocacy Centers during 2025, thousands of children in South Carolina also suffered from drug endangerment, physical abuse, neglect, and other forms of child maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, approximately 70% of children served at South Carolina Children's Advocacy Centers in 2025 were under the age of 13; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Advocacy Center model promotes and delivers excellence in best practice response to child abuse and prevention through direct service, education, collaboration, and leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry Dargan McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 1, 2026, as

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the valuable contributions that Children's Advocacy Centers and the South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers make to protect children and enhance the response to child abuse.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry D. McMaster".

**HENRY DARGAN McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**