

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, as part of executing its mission, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges raises awareness and educates judges and others about the implications of abuse on individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in four women in the United States will experience physical domestic violence at some point in her life; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence victims experience a host of health- and mental health-related consequences at far greater rates than their counterparts who have not been abused; and

WHEREAS, the economic burden of domestic violence in the United States is over \$8 billion per year in direct medical costs and loss of productivity; and

WHEREAS, 15.5 million children in the United States live in families in which domestic violence occurred at least once in the past year, and 7 million children live in families in which severe domestic violence occurred; and

WHEREAS, children of mothers who are victims of domestic violence are six times more likely than other children to die before the age of five; and

WHEREAS, only approximately one-quarter of all physical assaults, one-fifth of all rapes, and one-half of all stalking incidents perpetrated against women by intimate partners are reported to the police; and

WHEREAS, the damage caused by domestic violence is not limited by gender, age, ethnicity or sexual orientation, and

WHEREAS, public awareness has the potential to increase the identification and reporting of abuse by the public, professionals, and victims themselves, and can act as a catalyst to promote issue-based education and long-term prevention;

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges hereby observes October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges hereby urges judges, lawyers, parole and probation officers, social workers, law enforcement, domestic violence advocates, and other professionals to take steps to enhance awareness of the negative impact of domestic violence on children, families, and communities.