

April 1, 2015

## April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. How will You Help?

*Illinois DCFS hosts event at Capitol on Wednesday with DCFS Acting Director George Sheldon*

(SPRINGFIELD, Ill) – The public is invited to join the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, for the kick off on April 1 in the rotunda of Illinois' State Capitol building. The program begins at 10:00 a.m.

"Child abuse and neglect is an abomination and it has to stop," said Illinois DCFS Acting Director George H. Sheldon. "Children are our most valuable resource and we must protect them from any and all harm. But we cannot do this alone, we need everyone to help. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected we ask that you call the DCFS Child Abuse Hotline at 800-25-ABUSE to report it."

It is estimated that more than 100,000 cases of abuse go unreported each year. The impact of abuse on children manifests itself in many ways. Children may experience a range of emotional, psychological and physical problems and trauma as a result of being abused or neglected.

During the month of April and throughout the year, Illinois DCFS would like to encourage communities to share child abuse and neglect prevention awareness messages and to help promote prevention efforts across the country. In addition, Illinois DCFS will host an *art exhibit* created by kids in residential care at the rotunda on April 1 through April 10.

Program speakers include elected officials and Valerie Eyer, a child author. Val is an 11-year-old 5<sup>th</sup> grader at the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville. She is the author of "Why Did We Have to Say Goodbye," a true story about losing her baby brother to child abuse. She wrote the book so other children who have experienced abuse know that they are not alone.

Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2015

What: **Child Abuse Prevention Month Press Conference & Art Exhibit**

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Illinois State Capitol, 401 S Spring Street in Springfield, IL on the first floor.

Visual: Illinois DCFS staff, elected officials and partner agencies will pass out bookmarks tied with blue ribbons. The blue ribbon is one of the symbols of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

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**[www.DCFS.illinois.gov](http://www.DCFS.illinois.gov)**

**HD Satellite Coordinates:**

Slug: Child Abuse Prevention

Date: April 1, 2015

Time: 1:00 PM (CT) – 1:15 PM (CT)

Satellite: AMC 15KU

Transponder: 02

Slot: A18

Downlink Frequency: 11731.0

Downlink Polarization: H

Bandwidth: 18 MHz

Symbol Rate: 13.235

FEC: 3 / 4

Data Rate: 18.295442

Video: MPEG 2

Modulation Scheme: QPSK

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