

Rutherford County

World Elder Abuse Awareness Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, North Carolina ranks eighth nationally in the number of people ages 65 and older; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse is a growing concern as the number of adults over age 65 in North Carolina grows; this year, one in five residents will be over age 65, and with greater longevity there will be more opportunities for older adults to experience maltreatment, whether physical, emotional, or financial; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse is under-reported, overlooked, and often ignored, and each resident has a legal responsibility to report any suspicion of abuse, neglect, or exploitation without fear of reprisal to their local county social services department; and

WHEREAS, in the state Fiscal Year 2022-2023, there were around 35,400 reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable and older adults made to North Carolina's 100 county departments of social services; and

WHEREAS, encouraging, strengthening, and increasing support to prevent abuse allows vulnerable and older adults to exercise their independence and their right to self-determination; and

WHEREAS, we must utilize every tool available to ensure our older adults live with confidence and security in their later years, free from fear, harassment, and harm; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County joins the world in recognizing June as World Elder Abuse Awareness Month by taking a stand and making it known that it is not acceptable for any older adult to live in fear, be mistreated, or experience intentional harm;

I, Chairman of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim **June 2025** as **World Elder Abuse Awareness Month** and encourage all Rutherford County's residents to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Rutherford County's seniors.

Adopted this the 2nd day of June, 2025

Signature _____
Bryan King, Chairman
Rutherford County Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Clerk,
Board of Commissioners



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bryan King, *Chairman* | Alan Toney, *Vice Chairman* | Michael Benfield | Hunter Haynes | Donnie Haulk
Steve Garrison, *County Manager* | Hazel S. Haynes, *Clerk to the Board* | Richard Williams, *County Attorney*