

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE:** January 25, 2019

**TO:** All Communities and Neighborhoods (including, but not limited to Schools, Libraries, Churches, Civic and Community Groups, Childcare Centers, Hospitals, Medical Facilities) – all groups large and small!

**FROM:** The Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Action Committee – led by OSDH, which include participants and representatives from multiple programs/agencies collaborating on the promotion of child abuse prevention efforts throughout Oklahoma.

**SUBJECT:** “Do 1 Thing” for Child Abuse Prevention!  
Easy Activity...

**TAKE ACTION!**



**“Build a Blue Ribbon Tree for Kids in Your Community!”**

**April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.** For the eleventh year, communities are encouraged to “do 1 thing” for children – get involved by simply **“Building a Blue Ribbon Tree”** and displaying the trees during the month of April. The *blue ribbon* is the international sign for child abuse prevention and serves as a constant reminder that all of us have a responsibility in helping protect children.

### **Where do I participate?**

Anywhere in Oklahoma

### **When do I participate?**

It is recommended that “*Ribbon-ed Trees*” be on display before April begins or any time during the month of April. Everyone is urged to complete the official Tree Registry by sending in the registration card (next page) and no more than two photographs. Tree photos received by the deadline will be featured during a slideshow at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Oklahoma Child Abuse and Neglect Conference (hosted by the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect) as well as a variety of other ways including the official 2019 CAP Month Scrapbook. Deadline for submission to be featured at the conference is **Wednesday, April 3, 2019.**


### **How do I participate?**

Any community group or individual has the power to **“Do 1 Thing”** to promote child abuse prevention. **“Build a Blue Ribbon Tree for Kids”** with the rest of the state.

1. Select or construct a tree (if constructing – choose any materials)
  - a. If utilizing a ‘live’ tree, choose one that has high visibility; *Note: Please ask permission, if required.*
  - b. If constructing a ‘unique’ tree, **creativity appreciated and encouraged.**
2. Decorate tree with blue ribbons (store bought or home-made – *flagging tape works wonders*)
  - a. Hang ribbons on trees to represent any of the following:
    - ⌘ The number of new babies born in your community;
    - ⌘ The number of confirmed child abuse and neglect cases in your county;
    - ⌘ Something significant to your agency, program, or community;  
*(i.e. number of families served by your program/agency)*
    - ⌘ Or use the ribbons to show your community support for children in general;  
*(benefit of this selection – NO counting ribbons)*
3. Get logged in the Tree Registry (complete card - next page)!

# CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH TREE REGISTRY FORM

Please complete the information below to register your tree or trees for  
April – National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

<b>NAME</b> of Person, Group or Organization		Telephone	
Postal <b>ADDRESS</b> of Person, Group or Organization		County	
<b>CONTACT</b> Person (Affiliation to Group)		Email	
<b>LOCATION</b> of <b>Blue Ribbon Trees</b>	<b>Example:</b> Courthouse, Main Street, Church/Faith-Based Group, Childcare Center, Library, Area Business, School, Neighborhood, etc.		
What do YOUR <b>Blue Ribbons REPRESENT?</b>		<p>The # of new babies born in YOUR community! The # of children served by YOUR program! The # of confirmed child abuse &amp; neglect cases in YOUR county! (or craft your own) Something significant to YOUR agency or program (please specify)! Or use the ribbons to show community support for children in general! (Benefit of this selection → no counting of ribbons)</p>	Circle One
<i>Ribbons represent (more space for specific details if needed):</i>			

## IMPORTANT NOTES

Photos will be displayed in a special video slideshow during the CCAN Conference in April, the official **2019 CAP Month Scrapbook** and a variety of other ways such as via the Oklahoma Child Abuse Prevention social media.

- *Decorate or create a tree*
- *Make the ribbons count*
- *Get Listed* ~ Official Tree Registry

**DEADLINE** to be included → **Wed, April, 3, 2019**

### CONSENT TO USE PHOTOS

Any photos/videos submitted to OSDH become the property of OSDH and may be used to promote agency programs online, in publications, on social media and at prevention events. Partners are required to receive permission from any persons depicted prior to submitting any materials.

### CONTACT INFORMATION WHERE TO SEND PICTURES



**SHERIE TRICE** [sheriet@health.ok.gov](mailto:sheriet@health.ok.gov)  
Family Support & Prevention Service (OSDH)  
1000 NE Tenth Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73117-1299  
405.271.7611 (phone) 405.271.1011 (fax)

## Hints & Ideas



- Blue flagging tape doubles as “ribbons” for outside trees; bright, affordable and weather resistant. Available at Amazon.com.
- Consider inviting notable community person and/or media to kick off or unveiling of your blue ribbon tree event, and...  
Take lots of photos!

## BUILD A BLUE RIBBON TREE

In Your Community!

Mark your calendar to join April Events & Activities, including...

### CAP Awards Ceremony

Hosted by the Family Support & Prevention Service (OSDH)  
**Oklahoma Judicial Center – Great Room**  
Tuesday, April 9, 2019

### 26th Oklahoma Child Abuse and Neglect Conference

Hosted by the OUHSC Center on Child Abuse & Neglect  
**NCED Conference Center (Norman)**  
April 17-19, 2019  
<https://www.ouhsc.edu/okcantraining/Annual-Conference>

Visit this website for more information: <https://go.usa.gov/xn7mH>