



National Crime Victims' Rights Week

WHEREAS, Americans are the victims of more than 20 million crimes each year, affecting both individuals and communities;

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan instituted the National Crime Victims' Rights Week in 1981, sparking a national commitment to more equitable and supportive responses to victims by promoting victims' rights initiatives, effective and compassionate victim services, and just compensation and financial support;

WHEREAS, Providing victims with knowledge of their rights and available services strengthens their ability to recover by restoring a sense of self-empowerment;

WHEREAS, A trauma-informed response to victims promotes healing and fosters strength in survivors;

WHEREAS, Victims who feel understood and supported are more likely to disclose their victimization, seek services, and participate in the justice process;

WHEREAS, Many victims face barriers – such as isolation, distrust of authorities, language limitations, lack of transportation, or cultural barriers – that keep them from accessing the services and criminal justice systems that can help them recover from crime;

WHEREAS, Engaging a broader array of healthcare providers, community leaders, faith organizations, educators, and businesses can provide new links between victims and services that improve their safety, healing, and access to justice;

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 8 - 14, 2018, provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that all victims of crime – especially those who are challenging to reach or serve – are afforded their rights and receive a trauma-informed response; and

WHEREAS, the Collin County District Attorney and Collin County Commissioners Court join with victim service providers, criminal justice agencies, and concerned citizens throughout Collin County, Texas, and America and are hereby dedicated to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities and our victim responders, and working for justice for all victims and survivors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Willis, _____, as Collin County District Attorney and we, as the Collin County Commissioners Court, do jointly proclaim the week of April 8 - 14, 2018, as CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK, reaffirming Collin County's commitment to a victims service and criminal justice response assisting all victims of crime throughout the year, and we express our sincere gratitude to those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant support, justice, and peace.

Keith Self, County Judge

Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct. 1

Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct. 2

John Thomas, Commissioner, Pct. 3

Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct. 4