

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO.54

Proclaiming the Week of April 19th through April 25th, 2026 as “National Crime Victims’ Rights Week” and the month of April 2026 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in Multnomah County, Oregon.

Multnomah County Finds:

- A. All residents of Multnomah County deserve to live in safe communities, free from the fear of crime and violence of all kinds.
- B. In recognizing National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, we uplift the critical role of the criminal justice system to remove barriers to achieving justice for all victims of crime.
- C. We emphasize the County’s commitment to supporting those in our community who have been harmed as a result of crime, understanding the impact this can have on an individual’s sense of safety in the community, to their financial resources, and to their mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing.
- D. In Oregon, a crime victim's foundational rights include the right to justice, the right to a meaningful role in the criminal and juvenile justice systems, the right to due dignity and respect, and the right to fair and impartial treatment.
- E. These rights include the right to be notified of court hearings, to be heard, to restitution, and to continue to be involved post-conviction, after the case has been resolved.
- F. “Victim” means the person or persons who have suffered financial, social, psychological or physical harm as a result of a crime.
- G. In 2025 alone, there were 7,387 victims connected to cases that were referred to the Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office. This number does not include victims of crime where a suspect was never identified or the crime was never reported. Many victims of crime choose not to engage with the system, for a myriad of reasons, including a lack of trust in the system, concerns over safety or a lack of resources or support. A significant number of these victims in cases that are issued by the District Attorney’s Office end up being supported by the Department of Community Justice post-conviction.
- H. Multnomah County’s Victim Advocates across the District Attorney’s Office, the Department of Community Justice, and the Domestic Violence Crisis Response Unit provide crucial support to victims and survivors as they navigate some of the most challenging moments of their life.

- I. Advocates inform victims of their rights, but also provide support and safety planning that aims to prevent additional harm and trauma. These Advocates also give victims critical information about the criminal justice system and what to expect so that survivors can make informed decisions about what is safest and best for them.
- J. Resource constraints felt across our community are especially painful for victims in urgent need because of a crime they experienced. With the support of limited emergency response funds, victims' safety needs can be rapidly addressed. This dedicated funding is extremely limited but can be incredibly impactful, and must be expanded.
- K. This year, the National Crime Victims' Rights Week theme is "Listen. Act. Advocate. Protect victims, serve communities." This theme recognizes the importance of responsiveness of victims' rights, which allows victims to express how they may want to participate in a case and then to have those rights honored and enforced.
- L. Restorative justice practices are one way that the voice of victims is being recognized through Multnomah County programming, and we urge continued investment in these approaches. With trained facilitators supporting harmed parties, they center the response on their needs, and hold the person who caused harm accountable for meeting those needs and support them in changing their behavior.
- M. We recognize that crime and violence disproportionately affects marginalized communities, exacerbating existing inequalities and injustices. In 2025, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color made up 31.5% of the total victims connected to cases that were referred to the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office.
- N. We know these communities are less likely to report crime or attend court hearings related to their cases due to fear of negative consequences for themselves, only increased by the rise in anti-immigrant policies and a climate where diversity, equity and inclusion practices are under threat.
- O. For these reasons, it is more important than ever that we commit to offering culturally responsive services to best support victims and to proactively address systemic inequalities.
- P. This year, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office and the Department of Community Justice made significant strides forward in making the criminal justice system more accessible to victims through the completion of the Case Companion project.
- Q. This cross-collaborative project provides an accessible resource to inform victims about the criminal justice process and a unified portal to request their rights, and sign up for automatic hearing notifications via text or email, available in 26

languages.

- R. By utilizing innovations such as Case Companion, victim-centered approaches, and community collaboration, community safety is enhanced.
- S. In Multnomah County, we are committed to continued systemic improvements for crime victims to increase victims' access to justice and healing.
- T. In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, we recognize that child abuse and neglect is a serious public health and safety problem that impacts our entire community.
- U. Child abuse and neglect have long-term physical, psychological, emotional and social effects that can have a lasting consequences for survivors of abuse into adulthood.
- V. We acknowledge that all of us in Multnomah County must work together to increase awareness about child abuse and together promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment.

Multnomah County Proclaims:

The week of April 19 through April 25, 2026, to be National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and the month of April 2026 to be Child Abuse Prevention Month, in Multnomah County, Oregon and affirms that supporting victims is crucial to creating a safe and just community.

SIGNED this 1st day of April 2026.

REVIEWED:

JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By _____
Jenny Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Nathan Vasquez, Multnomah County District Attorney, Denise Peña, Director, Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, Commissioner Julia Brim-Edwards, District 3, Commissioner Vince Jones-Dixon, District 4