



Fremont County

Board of County Commissioners

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Fremont County is steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the safety, well-being, and stability of all children, including providing supportive homes where children and youth can feel secure, nurtured, and empowered to succeed; and

Whereas, statewide, Colorado continues to expand its use of kinship care: in 2025, 53% of children entering foster care were placed with a relative or other trusted adult they already knew, up from 50% the year before, and the number of certified kinship foster care families grew from 588 to 813 — a 38% increase. In Fremont County, as of August 22, 2026, 93.6% of children in out-of-home placement (44 of 47) were living in a family-like setting, with 19.1% placed with certified kinship caregivers and an additional 19.1% placed with non-certified kin. These ratings do not reflect children placed in kinship homes certified through Child Placement Agencies or children continuing to reside with their parents or guardians without Fremont County holding custody. Just 2.1% of children in out-of-home placement (1 of 47) were in a congregate care setting, well below the State's goal of maintaining fewer than 15.0% of children in congregate care. Of children with siblings also in out-of-home placement, 90.5% (19 of 21) were placed together with siblings; and

Whereas, kinship families reside in urban, rural, and suburban neighborhoods across Fremont County, and they often face a multitude of challenges. Therefore, local partnerships among the educational, legal, judicial, law enforcement, social services, mental health, substance recovery, behavioral health, public health agencies, and other systems are important for ensuring access to services that can assist foster children and youth as well as the relatives and kinship providers with whom these children are placed. Local agencies within these sectors provide opportunities for families to flourish in all facets of their lives and are crucial to helping them succeed. Furthermore, Fremont County residents are asked to join in honoring relatives, friends, community members, and all those who step forward out of love and loyalty to care for at-risk children and youth during times in which their biological parents are unable to do so; and

Whereas, Kinship Care Month provides an opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of countless children and youth throughout Fremont County who, with the unconditional love and support of relatives and kin, have successfully navigated the emotional difficulties that beset the separation from their parents; all Fremont County citizens are encouraged to raise their awareness and understanding of the importance of family connections and the positively familiar environments that kinship families offer for many Fremont County children;

Now, Therefore, we, the Fremont County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim September 2026 to be KINSHIP CARE MONTH IN FREMONT COUNTY.

Kevin Grantham, District 1 Commissioner

Debbie Bell, District 2 Commissioner

Dwayne McFall, District 3 Commissioner