

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

## **MONTEREY COUNTY PROCLAIMS THE MONTH OF MARCH PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH**

---

March 22, 2016

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dean D. Flippo, District Attorney  
(831) 755-5470

---

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo is pleased to announce that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors passed the resolution proclaiming March Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month. This resolution was presented today to District Attorney Dean D. Flippo.

The Monterey County District Attorney's Office Disability/Healthcare Insurance Fraud Unit and the Prescribe Safe Initiative, a community-wide coalition representing several Monterey County Departments, specifically the District Attorney, Sheriff's Department, Health Department, all four local hospitals, health care partners, and community based organizations are making advances to educate the community to address prescription drug abuse.

This resolution highlights the dangers of misusing prescription drugs and the available resources for addressing this public health issue.

Drug overdose was the leading cause of injury death in 2013 among those 25 to 64 years old, causing more deaths than motor vehicle traffic accidents. There are more overdose deaths from prescription pain killers and sedatives than from heroin and cocaine combined.

"The abuse of prescription drugs is a serious and pervasive problem in Monterey County. This initiative encourages all members of our community to take this month to actively participate and educate themselves about the risks of prescription drug abuse." said Mr. Flippo. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors encourages all community members to pledge, "Spread the Word... One Pill Can Kill."

**For additional information, please contact Monterey County District Attorney's Office Disability/Healthcare Fraud Unit at 755-5252.**