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CONNECTICUT AUTHOR AND CHILD ADVOCATE JACQUELINE FORD RELEASES *THE COURAGE TO TELL*, A POWERFUL RESOURCE FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN AND ANIMALS

CONNECTICUT, April 1, 2026 — Jacqueline Ford, a Connecticut-based social worker, adjunct professor, and nationally recognized child advocate, announces the release of her new children’s book, *The Courage to Tell*, available now.

More than a story, *The Courage to Tell* serves as a meaningful resource for teachers, social workers, law enforcement, animal control officers and caregivers, offering guidance on recognizing signs of abuse and responding when a child finds the courage to speak up.

The book is being released in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month and Animal Cruelty Awareness Month, underscoring the important and often interconnected nature of protecting both children and animals.

“Sometimes the bravest thing a child can do is tell,” said Ford. “This book was written to help adults be ready in that moment, to listen with care and respond appropriately, while reassuring children that they should not be afraid to speak up. It reminds them they are not alone and that trusted helpers can step in to create safety, support families, and guide them toward healing and strength together.”

Drawing from more than three decades of experience in child welfare, Ford brings both professional expertise and heartfelt compassion to this work. *The Courage to Tell* gently explores themes of empathy, awareness and action, helping readers understand that small observations can lead to meaningful intervention.

The Courage to Tell is a personal project of Jacqueline Ford and is not affiliated with or produced by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families.

The story follows a young girl who begins to notice concerning signs involving a friend and her pet. Through observation, friendship and courage, the narrative models how speaking up can lead to safety, support and hope.

The book is designed to function as both a children's story that fosters empathy and courage and as a practical resource for adults who support and protect children.

Jacqueline Ford resides in Connecticut with her husband, John, in a home filled with beloved pets. Raised by her mother and grandparents, she carries forward the values of love, resilience, and care that shaped her life. She and her husband have two daughters: Alexandra, a Doctor of Nursing Practice and primary care provider whose career began in pediatric oncology, and Rebecca, a college student pursuing a law degree who is well known in her community for pet sitting.

With a bachelor's degree in psychology from Quinnipiac University and a master's degree in social work from Southern Connecticut State University, Ford has devoted more than 30 years to the Connecticut Department of Children and Families. Her work is grounded in dignity, prevention, and the power of human connection. She also serves as an adjunct professor, mentoring future professionals in the human services field.

Ford is the recipient of two national recognitions, including the 2023 Nexstar Remarkable Woman Award and the 2026 Ujima Award from the National Adoption Association. She is also a published author in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Miracles, Angels, and Messages from Heaven*, where her story was selected for a podcast feature. Her work continues to focus on strengthening families, supporting children, and inspiring communities through compassion, awareness and action, with a deep appreciation for the healing connection between people and animals.

Ford is available for interviews, school and community readings, facilitated book discussions with children to support understanding and safe expression, and short, practical learning sessions for educators and child-serving professionals.

The Courage to Tell is available now.