



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

For Immediate Release:  
CONTACT: James Pollack  
Phone: (330) 604-2739  
[pollack@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:pollack@prosecutor.summitoh.net)  
Twitter: @ProsecutorWalsh  
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## Summit County Jury Finds Akron Man Guilty of Raping Disabled Woman

AKRON, Ohio (Friday, June 21, 2019) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that a Summit County jury found Jesse Williams, 34, of Morningview Avenue in Akron, guilty of several charges, including breaking into a disabled woman's home and raping her.

Jurors found Williams guilty of the following charges:

- Rape – a felony of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree
- Burglary – a felony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree
- Tampering with Evidence – a felony of the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree
- Attempted Burglary – a felony of the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree

On December 3, 2018, Williams forced his way into the home of the 62-year-old victim and demanded money. When the victim, who is disabled, refused to give Williams any money, he dragged her into a bedroom where he raped her. Following the assault, Williams then attempted to clean up any evidence of the crime. After Williams left, the victim went to a neighbor, who called police.

During the investigation, officers discovered Williams had attempted to break into a nearby apartment eleven days later.

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“This was an awful and violent crime. I am so proud of the survivor, who had to face her attacker as she testified at trial. Her testimony was compelling and I’m pleased the jury believed her,” said Prosecutor Walsh.

During the trial, Avery, the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office facility dog, sat with the victim while she testified. As a facility dog in the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office, Avery’s primary job is to provide emotional support to children, as well as adults with developmental disabilities, who are either victims or witnesses to crime. Since coming to the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office in August of 2013, Avery has been involved in nearly 180 cases, assisting over 225 victims.

Retired Judge Janet Burnside is scheduled to sentence Williams on July 29, 2019 at 9am.