



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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## Wayne Doyle Denied Parole

*68-Year-Old Serving 40-Year Prison Sentence for Killing 7-Year-Old Boy*

AKRON, Ohio (Thursday, February 18, 2021) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that in a six-to-four vote, the Ohio Parole Board has denied parole for Wayne Doyle.

In 1987, Doyle was convicted of beating 7-year-old Charlie Wright to death, as well as assaulting Charlie's older brother, and was sentenced to 40 years in prison. Charlie's injuries were so severe that a part of his intestine ruptured. He also had several broken bones which were in various stages of healing. Charlie endured tremendous pain and suffering and died nearly 20 hours after the initial assault.

In October of 2020, by a vote of 6-0, a Parole Board panel voted to release Doyle. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office objected and requested a full board hearing, which was scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

At the hearing, representatives from the Prosecutor's Office and Charlie Wright's family successfully convinced Board members to reconsider their original decision for a number of reasons, including lack of a responsibility for the crime, a poorly conceived release plan and the discovery that Wayne Doyle had not taken part in any prison programming for 11 years. Doyle's primary release plan was to move to Oregon to live with the daughter of an inmate he met in prison. The Parole Board also approved the Prosecutor's Office request to deny Doyle any future parole considerations and to complete his entire 40-year prison sentence.

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Charlie's brother, David Strittmatter, also testified at the hearing, and urged the Parole Board to not release Doyle early.

"Charlie suffered immeasurable pain at the hands of Wayne Doyle. Releasing Doyle early would have not only put our community at risk, but would have caused additional pain to Charlie's family," said Prosecutor Walsh.

Prosecutor Walsh added, "I would like to thank the public for their outpouring of support and letters to the parole Board. Most important, we would like to thank David Strittmatter for standing up today and being a voice for his little brother."

Doyle's scheduled release is April of 2027.